

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of Lighthouse International. They are a leading organization that helps vision impaired individuals of all ages lead independent and productive lives.

Founded in 1905, Lighthouse International is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping prevent the disabling effects of impaired vision. Their rehabilitation program teaches the visually impaired new skills to cope with their vision loss and accomplish the goals they have set for themselves. Lighthouse International has served approximately 5,000 residents in the New York City metropolitan area.

Lighthouse International is New York State's foremost provider of comprehensive vision rehabilitation services for people of all ages. Their services include infant and toddler programs, a child development center, counseling, career services, low vision care, a music school, computer training, and instruction in independent living.

The Lighthouse collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) to develop strategic plans that address and prevent vision impairment. They are a participant in the IAPB's "Vision 2020: The Right to Sight" campaign to eliminate avoidable blindness.

There are 180 million people with vision impairment worldwide. Lighthouse International deserves recognition for its tireless work on their behalf. Their programs give hope to people who had once lost their faith in accomplishing everyday activities.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Small Business Administration and celebrate and applaud the dedication of America's small business men and women during "National Small Business Week."

Small businesses are vital to our nation's economic growth and prosperity. America's 23 million small businesses represent more than 99 percent of all employers, account for more than half of all private sector workers and generate 3 out of every 4 new jobs. Additionally, small businesses account for one-third of U.S. exports and more than half of the gross domestic product. These people are the risk-takers, innovators and creators of tomorrow.

We've all heard that U.S. small businesses are the growth engine of our economy. As such, U.S. small technology businesses contribute significantly to our nation's economic

security. The technological innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses such as HGI Skydyne ensure that the military, aerospace and electronics industries have access to a constant flow of unique technologies to create world class products.

HGI Skydyne, a small business in my district, dates back to 1938 when it began manufacturing and selling lightweight, protective cases. Over the years it became a regular supplier of state-of-the-art fiberglass and composite-material cases. Among the company's many achievements were a patented composite-material wing for the Corsair airplane, the design and production of the transportation container for NASA's Lunar Landing Module, and the design and manufacture of the cases that brought moon rocks home to earth. Despite those successes, Skydyne's owners were ready to shut its doors in 2002. However, Hornet Group, Inc., a small, six-employee product development company decided to acquire Skydyne. Thanks to the Small Business Administration's 7(a) Loan Program, Hornet Group was able to keep Skydyne afloat and also enabled them to hire additional employees—now totaling 80. Under their collective stewardship, a second round of SBA and Key Bank financing was recently completed in order to accommodate the company's astronomical growth—sales orders that have grown to \$3 million from \$200,000 in just two years! Now that's a real small business success story and there are many others with similar accomplishments.

Entrepreneurship will continue to be the backbone of the American economy. Our future depends on the successful creation and expansion of small business. It is our job to increase our efforts on behalf of small business to ensure we have an environment where they can thrive. During "National Small Business Week" let us recognize and reflect on the hard work and dedication of all our small businesses who overcome financial and regulatory hurdles in order to help our economy run smoothly.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 748) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent the transportation of minors in circumvention of certain laws relating to abortion, and for other purposes:

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act. I would like to thank Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for her leadership on this crucial issue. I am an original co-sponsor of this legislation and applaud the effort of those who brought this measure to the floor.

Today we have an opportunity to protect families, protect children, and protect the unborn. Let us make sure parents are given a chance to help their daughters during their most vulnerable times. Parents of minor children must be consulted if their child wants to get their ears pierced. The same standard should be applied when it comes to making life altering decisions. My home State of Texas has enacted a law guaranteeing the rights of parents in making important medical decisions for their children. Several states bordering Texas have no such statutes and many try to circumvent Texas law by driving across state lines, often against the will of the child. This bill will ensure that if a family is ever faced with having to make such a life altering decision it will be made by the family, and with the child's best interests at heart.

With passage of this legislation, Congress has an opportunity to stand with families during a difficult time. We also have a chance to protect the least among us, the unborn.

Let us be judged on how we answer this call. Let us pass this pro-family, pro-child, and pro-life legislation.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE APPROPRIATE SIZE OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE METHOD BY WHICH MEMBERS ARE ELECTED

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that addresses an important issue I have pursued through several Congresses. This bill forms a commission to examine how we, the people, may be best served by our representational democracy. This commission would analyze the current size of the membership of the House of Representatives and examine alternatives to the current method of electing Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation encapsulates an important idea whose time has come. We are one of the most underrepresentative democracies in the world. As a country that holds itself up as the standard bearer for the democratic process, we must continue to ensure our democracy gives all citizens an equal and meaningful voice in our government.

As events of the past few years have made clear, we are facing an electoral crisis. Voter turnout continues to fall as people lose more and more faith in the democratic process. We owe it to our constituents and each American citizen to closely examine all available options for ensuring maximum participation in this great democracy of ours.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. As Members of Congress, we have all taken an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. Part of our duty is to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

keep the promise of a true representational democracy as envisioned by our forefathers. This legislation furthers that goal. That is why I look forward to working with my colleagues and moving this legislation forward.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL
KATHRYN G. FROST

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Major General Kathryn G. Frost is retiring after a long and exceptionally distinguished career.

General Frost's outstanding service to the nation has been marked by meritorious service in increasingly demanding command positions, culminating as the Commanding General of the United States Army and Air Force Exchange.

General Frost is a 1970 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of South Carolina where she received a degree in Administrative Education. She also received a Master's degree in Counseling from Wayne State University.

Her distinguished career has spanned three decades, and her duties have included tours as Chief, Military Personnel Office/Deputy Adjutant General, Berlin Brigade/United States Army, Berlin, Germany; Commander, Eastern Sector, United States Military Entrance Processing Command, Great Lakes, Illinois; Adjutant General/Commanding General, Physical Disability Agency/Executive Director of Military Postal Service Agency, Alexandria, Virginia; and Deputy Legislative Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC.

General Frost's awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, and Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge. She also was named one of USC's Distinguished Alumni in 2002.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Major General Kathryn G. Frost, for her outstanding commitment to the United States Army and the United States of America.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION
NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer my support for an important piece of legislation on which I was unable to vote due to the birth of my granddaughter.

During my absence, the House considered the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act (H.R. 748) which I co-sponsored, and strongly support. There is no question that we must protect young women from being coerced into

obtaining abortions. As the testimony and advertisements made available through the committee process have clearly demonstrated, many clinics deliberately target minors in order to avoid parental notification and consent laws in their home states.

In order to protect the enforcement power of each state's laws and these young women, I am thrilled the House is moving forward with this legislation and look forward to its passage. Isolating minors from their parents at a time when they need them most is the wrong thing to do, and this legislation prevents these out of state clinics from doing just that. I am grateful my colleagues supported this important bill and opposed all amendments. If I had been present, I would have voted against all amendments and in favor of final passage (Roll Call Vote #144).

I know this is an important vote, and I was unable to be present for the vote because I have welcomed a new life into the world.

My son and daughter-in-law have been through a very challenging pregnancy, with serious concern that they would lose Kate during the early months. We couldn't imagine how terrible that would be, and are so grateful that God has provided for the safe delivery of little Kate Summerlin Westmoreland. She was born Tuesday, April 26 at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia and weighs in at six pounds, four ounces, with a full head of hair!

I am so blessed to have the family I do, and to enjoy the time together with them was worth everything in the world, especially after how many challenges accompanied the initial stages of Kate's life.

I don't know what God has in store for this little one, but am excited about what lies ahead of her. I am returning to Washington as soon as practicable after her birth, and look forward to getting back home to spend time with Kate, her big brother Acton, and her proud parents, Trae and Kristy.

In today's world, so many people rush by without realizing the treasure they have in their families. Events like the birth of grandchildren help bring those special ones into focus, and remind you of the rich blessings God has given.

Mr. Chairman, it has been an exhausting, but thrilling past few days, and I am honored to announce to the House the birth of Kate Summerlin Westmoreland.

INTRODUCTION OF FOCUS ON COMMITTED AND UNDERPAID STAFF
FOR CHILDREN'S SAKE ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues Mr. PLATTS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. STARK, Ms. TUBBS JONES, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. CAROLYN MCCARTHY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. DANNY DAVIS in introducing the FOCUS Act. This bill would increase the overall quality of child care by elevating the skills and pay of early childhood education providers. This is a

proven successful model, first developed in North Carolina, and critical to helping all children reach kindergarten ready to succeed.

Between 1970 and 2001, the percentage of mothers in the workforce rose from 38 to 67 percent. The change for mothers of young children has been even more dramatic. According to the New America Foundation, the labor force participation of women with children under age 6 has more than doubled—from 24 percent in 1960 to 65 percent in 2000. Over 9 million children between the ages of birth and 5 are in child care in this country. With so many of our children in early care and education settings, it is more important than ever that child care can support the developmental needs of children.

High quality child care plays an important role in healthy child development and school readiness. Research on brain development demonstrates that the experiences children have early in life have a decisive, long-lasting impact on their development and learning. Unfortunately, child care program evaluations indicate that the quality of most care ranges from mediocre to poor. This country must make changes in its child care system.

Just as it is the parents who matter at home, it is the teachers who matter in child care—a stable, educated and qualified teaching staff is one of the most critical components of quality child care. Staff training and experience are the most important components of child care quality. Research shows that children learning from more highly educated teachers perform better on tests of verbal and math achievement.

Studies repeatedly show that one of the leading causes of poor quality child care is low pay and high turnover among child care staff, who on average make just over \$17,000 annually. FOCUS improves the quality of child care by boosting training, reducing turnover, and attracting qualified staff by providing stipends of \$1,000 to \$3,000 to qualified child care providers based on their level of education. FOCUS also would grant funds for scholarships in early childhood development and education so providers can continue to improve their knowledge and skills. FOCUS also provides grants to States to provide better access to health coverage for child care workers since lack of health benefits also impedes retention of qualified early education teachers.

We cannot expect children to transition to kindergarten and succeed in school if we do not take the necessary steps to provide quality care in the years prior to school entry. The average quality of child care is far poorer than what it should be in a country as wealthy and committed to our children's future as is ours. It is time we work to make quality child care for all children a national priority. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of the House to join me and co-sponsor the Focus Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF CLIFFORD J.
MERRILL FOR HIS 21 YEARS OF
SERVICE TO SOLANO COUNTY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Clifford Merrill for his 21 years

of service to the people of Solano County. Mr. Merrill began his employment with Solano County on February 22, 1984, as an entry level Deputy Probation Officer in the Probation Department, and has since held positions ranging from Probation Services Manager to Interim Chief of the Probation Department.

Mr. Merrill has provided valuable intensive services to many probationers. His effective management of the Repeat Offender Prevention Program Grant, the Targeted Truancy Grant, and the Fouts Springs Aftercare Grant are just a few examples of his responsible stewardship of public services.

Furthermore, Mr. Merrill demonstrated exemplary leadership, both as Chief Deputy Probation Officer and as Interim Chief of the Probation Department. Mr. Merrill developed and implemented a comprehensive Administrative Policy Manual for the Solano County Probation Department, and was instrumental in coordinating the development of the departments "Task and Standards" Manual for Adult and Juvenile divisions.

Clearly, Clifford has been an exceptional and loyal employee of the Solano County Probation Department and has distinguished himself by providing outstanding, professional service and leadership to Solano County.

Again, I am proud to honor Clifford J. Merrill for his twenty-one years of dedicated service to the citizens of Solano County. I thank Clifford for his career contributions to the Solano County Probation Department, and I wish him a well-deserved retirement in the community he has done so much to improve.

HONORING NANCY CROSS OF FOREST HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPON HER RETIREMENT

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ms. Nancy Cross in recognition for her commitment and dedication to the youth of School District 101 in Illinois. For over 30 years, Ms. Cross has devoted her time to students and families of the Third Congressional District. Now, as she prepares for retirement, we would like to thank her for her countless years of fine service.

For the last thirty-six years, Ms. Cross has spent her life educating the residents of Illinois School District 101, first at the John Laidlaw Elementary School, and for the past twenty-four years at Forest Hills Elementary School, both located in Western Springs. At Forest Hills, Ms. Cross not only serves in a teaching capacity for the fifth grade, but also as the Head Teacher, who is second in command. In this position, she has been willing to help her principal in any capacity, especially by running the school in the principal's absence.

However, Ms. Cross's main contribution has been to her students, helping them learn how to enjoy reading. A bibliophile herself, Ms. Cross has shown through her own dedication to the written word and the imaginative world of books, that reading can be not only productive but enjoyable and engaging. She is often found reading to her students, and this exercise has left an indelible mark on many of them who still remember those class times spent listening to Ms. Cross.

Because of Ms. Cross's undeniable love for books and her ability to shape the minds of her young students, she has been an outstanding teacher for over thirty years, expanding and encouraging all of her students to reach as far as they can. It is a certainty that our entire community will feel a loss left by the retirement of Ms. Cross.

The parents and children of School District 101 are fortunate to have had such an energetic and devoted teacher like Ms. Cross. Through her dedication and love of educating the young minds of this country, Ms. Cross has made a difference and should be recognized for her outstanding and selfless contributions to our nation's youth and their families, especially the students and families of Western Springs.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Nancy Cross as an outstanding educator who has had a distinguished career. She has done nothing less than an extraordinary job preparing America's future generations. We thank and congratulate her for an extraordinary career, and we wish her well in retirement.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF NICHOLAS SCOTT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a man that embodies many core principles of our country: hard work, opportunity, selfless service, integrity and dedication. Nicholas Scott, now a middle school math teacher in the Brentwood School District, serves as a role model for the students in his classroom and the community as a whole.

Nicholas Scott was born to immigrant parents, his father having fled Cuba prior to the beginning of the Fidel Castro regime. At the age of eight his parents divorced and Nick moved with his mother to Deer Park, New York. Although the family had limited resources, Nick's mother instilled in him the values of hard work and perseverance, and she insisted that he attend college to seek the opportunities available in America.

Nick graduated high school in 1987 and lacking the resources to attend private college, he enrolled at Suffolk County Community College. For two years, Nick pursued his studies while still working four days a week. His persistence paid off, as he earned his Associate Degree in the Applied Sciences and was rewarded with an academic scholarship to Hofstra University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science. Nick's thirst for knowledge and devotion to self-improvement led him to Villanova University Law School, where he earned a Juris Doctorate degree. Nick was then admitted to the New York State Bar Association, becoming not only his family's first college graduate, but also its first lawyer.

Throughout his education, Nick sought out opportunities to give back to the community. While studying for the bar exam, Nick enlisted in the U.S. Army. Although he was eligible to enter as an officer, Nick chose to start at the bottom and work his way up, an experience

with which he was familiar. Nick quickly earned his Sergeant's stripes and soon after won a commission as an officer.

Nick left the active army to return to New York where he began legal practice. Once more, Nick chose others over himself. Rather than enter private practice, Nick went to serve the most vulnerable members of society as a lawyer for the Suffolk County Legal Aid Society.

After several years in practice, Nick decided that he wanted to further serve his community by teaching. He earned his teaching certificate and returned to Brentwood to teach middle school math.

Nick's service to our country has not ended in the classroom. Having joined the U.S. Army Reserve as a member of the Judge Advocate General Corps, Nick volunteered for duty in Iraq. In December of 2002, he was deployed along with the 101st Airborne Division to Kuwait and subsequently into Iraq, where he adjudicated local disputes, providing compensation to Iraqis that suffered property and other losses due to the war. Nick's dedication to improving the lives of newly freed Iraqi civilians earned him a Bronze Star and the title of Captain.

The day before his deployment to Iraq, Nick married fellow Brentwood teacher Nadine P. Kroner, and they are now the proud parents of a six-month old son, Ethan Hunter.

Nick Scott is an inspiration to me, to each student in the Brentwood school system and to our entire community. He is a living testament to the greatness of America, a land where opportunity matched with hard work can trump any hardship. But Nick Scott is a true role model because he has channeled his opportunity and hard work into a lifetime of service to others. I commend Nick for his dedication to service, for his remarkable accomplishments, for his strong work ethic, and his contributions to his family, community and country.

CONGRATULATING JIM FOGLESONG

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jim Foglesong on his induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Jim grew up singing with his family and then after serving in the U.S. Armed Forces used his G.I. Bill to attend Eastman School of Music.

Later Jim Foglesong not only developed talent but also mentored legendary music performers. He nurtured the careers of Country Music superstars Garth Brooks, Barbara Mandrell, Reba McEntire, The Oak Ridge Boys, George Strait, and Tanya Tucker, among others.

Now at age 82, Jim remains an important part of the Nashville music community.

His induction is the most prestigious honor in all of Country Music. I thank Jim for the tremendous contributions he has given to the business, the artists, and the fans of country music.

METALDYNE NEW CASTLE—A
CELEBRATION

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I very pleased to announce that Metaldyne Corporation is holding an official ribbon cutting ceremony at their New Castle, Indiana, facility on May 21, 2005. This will be a wonderful celebration for the company, its employees and their families, and the entire New Castle community.

Metaldyne is vital to New Castle, and the state of Indiana. It is the largest employer in Henry County, with over 1,000 employees producing more than 28 million chassis components, modules and assemblies each year.

Mr. Speaker, I deeply regret that I cannot attend the gathering, but I do look forward to working with Metaldyne to create jobs and strengthen the economy in East-Central Indiana. I congratulate Metaldyne New Castle, and wish them the best in the coming years.

INTRODUCING THE "AMERICAN
CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT"

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the American Citizenship Amendment. Currently, any person born on American soil can claim American citizenship, regardless of the citizenship of that child's parents. This means that any alien who happens to give birth in the United States has just given birth to an American citizen, eligible for all the benefits and privileges afforded to citizens.

Thus far the U.S. courts have asserted authority by interpreting the 14th Amendment to include the concept of birthright citizenship. However it is up to the U.S. Congress—and not the U.S. Supreme Court—to define American citizenship. That is why, I am introducing this Constitutional Amendment clarifying that the happenstance of birth on U.S. soil does not a U.S. citizen make.

This proposed Constitutional amendment restores the concept of American citizenship to that of our Founders. This legislation simply states that no child born in the United States whose mother and father do not possess citizenship or owe permanent allegiance to the United States shall be a citizen of the United States. It is essential to the future of our constitutional republic that citizenship be something of value, something to be cherished. It cannot be viewed as merely an express train into the welfare state.

FREEDOM FOR PRÓSPERO GAÍNZA
AGÜERO

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Próspero

Gaínza Agüero, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Gaínza Agüero is a member of the Pedro Luis Boitel National Civic Resistance Movement. He has committed himself to peacefully bringing democracy to the men and women of Cuba and ending the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Because of his steadfast belief in freedom, democracy and the Rule of Law, Mr. Gaínza Agüero has been targeted by the dictatorship.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Gaínza Agüero was detained by the regime for participating in a protest to demand the release of a pro-democracy activist charged with "public disorder." Despite continued harassment, Mr. Gaínza Agüero remained bravely committed to opposing the dictatorship and advocating for freedom. On March 18, 2003, as part of Castro's heinous crackdown on peaceful, pro-democracy activists, he was arrested by the dictatorship. In a sham trial, Mr. Gaínza Agüero was sentenced to 25 years in the totalitarian gulag.

According to Amnesty International, while locked up in the inhuman gulag for his belief in freedom, Mr. Gaínza Agüero participated in a hunger strike to call attention to the abhorrent condition in the gulag, the lack of food, and the grossly inadequate medical care. Despite being imprisoned for his belief in human rights, despite the horrors of the totalitarian gulag, Mr. Gaínza Agüero has not stopped working to bring change to a nation enslaved by Castro's despotic machinery of repression.

Próspero Gaínza Agüero is representative of the fighting spirit of the Cuban people: of their rejection of the brutality, discrimination, depravity, and oppression of the totalitarian tyranny.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Gaínza Agüero is imprisoned because he refuses to accept the dictatorship in Cuba today. Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against the abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Próspero Gaínza Agüero and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND,
TENNESSEE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the city of Portland, Tennessee, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body. The Middle Tennessee community will celebrate this milestone on Sunday, May 1.

The area around Portland was first settled in 1792 by the James Gwin family, according to local historians. Land speculation, as well as a soil and a climate conducive to dark air-cured tobacco, lured settlers from the Carolinas and Virginia to the area. Nearly 70 years later, the L&N Railroad also opened a train depot in Portland for its Nashville-to-Bowling Green route.

As the community grew and prospered, local leaders finally decided to incorporate.

And on May 2, 1905, the city of Portland held its first election. Since then, Portland has been through many changes. But it has never lost its charm or its allure. Today the community has an outstanding quality of life and a commitment from its local leaders and officials that is second to none.

Mayor Jim Calloway and the Board of Aldermen will lead the city of Portland's celebration on Sunday. They have done an outstanding job in organizing this event and leading the community into the 21st Century. I wish those city leaders well and hope the next 100 years are as prosperous and progressive as the first 100 years.

RECOGNIZING WORKERS'
MEMORIAL DAY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, on April 28, 1989, the world observed the first Workers Memorial Day in honor of the 2 million people who die each year as a result of workplace injury or illness. Fifteen years later, we remember the Americans who died on the job this past year and recall the hard work that still needs to be done in the United States to keep our working men and women safe.

The date of April 28th was chosen in recognition of the anniversary of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1971. Since its creation, OSHA has helped reduce the rate of workplace death and injury through the work of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration. But over 6 million workers in the United States still become sick or injured each year as a result of their work.

To maintain a strong and healthy economy, America needs a safe and healthy workforce. Federal safety and health standards are vital, as is funding for job safety research.

Last year in Oregon, dozens of workers gave the ultimate sacrifice to their professions: their lives. I would like to honor their memory now by recognizing them:

Wendell S. Alden, Joshua I. Allen, Michael W. Barton, Camilo U. Becerra-Corona, Daniel R. Becker, Joyce D. Boothe, William R. Bronco, Daniel J. Buckley, Harriet T. Burk, Curtis Clafflin, Dean I. Corliss, Jaime M. Diaz, David L. Dunn, Daniel W. Ealy, Paul D. Ferbrache II, Vernon L. Fraley, Robert A. Friedman, Larry R. Fry, and Gary Fullerton. Obdulía García, George R. Green, Robert T. Green, Paul W. Haley, David P. Henning, Carl B. Hestmark, Charles T. Hickey, Hugh C. Holdt, John F. Janzen, Cody Jones, Aryck J. Kalinsky, Cory R. Kepple, James Ladd, Paul Linck, Terence D. Little, Bin Lui, John T. Lumsden, Steven J. Maine, Patricia M. McVicker, Donald L. McCready, Douig K. McKay, Donald R. Mobley, and Bret D. Montgomery.

Ronald A. Nissen, Mile Obredovic, Ernest Oleman, Grant Overlock, Susanna Parish, Ilaab D. Patel, Skip Perry, Robert L. Peterson, Drew M. Pierson, Herbert O. Pishion Jr., Rita R. Pratt, Gary Richey, Teresa L. Rines, Juan C. Rios, Kenneth W. Robinson, Ralph E. Robinson, Gerardo Robles-Tejeda, Jeffrey L. Ross, and Billy J. Rucker.

Manfred Schiller, Russell H. Simpson, Ivan D. Smith, Robert G. Smith, Angelica Solis-Molina, Kevin M. Southwick, Jeffrey M.

Stark, Allen L. Stephens, Jerald C. Stewart, Gen Stewart, Terry D. Sutton, Brian T. Tiller, John R. Timmons, John A. Ussing, Leobarto Velazquez, Wendell L. West, John B. Whitten, Roger F. Woodworth, Scott Wriggelsworth, Abel Ybanez, and Roger V. Zemke.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH
ANNIVERSARY OF MOORE'S LAW

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American mind, who forty years ago this month made a prediction about integrated circuits that has driven the pace of innovation, helped make the U.S. the world's technological leader and brought endless benefits to consumers, businesses and economies in my district and around the world.

In April of 1965, Gordon Moore, a young engineer with Fairchild Semiconductor, postulated that the number of transistors on a chip would double at a regular interval without any additional cost increase. Essentially, he predicted that computer chips would double in power every 18 months. Forty years later, Moore's Law, as it has come to be known, has helped drive innovation at leading American companies like Intel Corporation, which Gordon helped found.

Even the most enterprising minds of 1965 could not have imagined that computers the size of a refrigerator would one day fit in the palm of our hands. Or that a children's toy would pack four times as much processing power as an Apollo moon lander.

These mind-blowing developments have led to advances in virtually every industry and aspect of our lives. Consider that families and friends can now send messages and share photos instantly, even from thousands of miles away. Doctors can now diagnose patients in other countries and get instantaneous access to the latest treatment options.

The drive towards maintaining Moore's law has kept Intel and the rest of the U.S. technology industry at the forefront of this innovation. The premise of Moore's Law dictates that computer power essentially improves for free, bringing increases in productivity unprecedented since the Industrial Revolution.

As a result, consumers get more for less and our economy benefits. Since 1995, information technology industries have accounted for 25 percent of overall U.S. economic growth while making up only 3 percent of the gross domestic product. This means that technological advances are the key to growing our economy.

In my home of Silicon Valley, we are proud to be part of the drive to keep pace with Moore's Law. I rise today to commemorate Gordon's contributions to our economy and to our world.

TRIBUTE TO THE MORRIS
HEIGHTS HEALTH CENTER

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to pay tribute to the Morris Heights Health Center as they celebrate 25 years of providing quality health care in the Bronx. On May 5, 2005 the Morris Heights Health Center Foundation will hold its Silver Anniversary Benefit Gala.

For twenty-five years the Morris Heights Health Center has been providing affordable, quality health care to the Bronx Community. Founded by Morris Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association, Morris Heights Health Center obtained a small federal planning grant in 1980 to address the medical abandonment of the community. In 1981 the Health Center opened a modest facility of 7,000 square feet with a staff of 6 and treated just under 3000 patients in its first year. Under the leadership of Founding President and CEO Verona Greenland and the Center Board of Directors the Morris Heights Health Center has developed into a comprehensive health care organization with a staff of 400 providing primary and specialty care, dental, mental health, and supportive services to 50,000 patients annually at 5 facilities and in 4 public schools.

The Morris Heights Health Center has accomplished many feats throughout its quarter century in the Bronx. In 1988, the Center sponsored the first free standing birthing center in a low income neighborhood in the country (The Women's Health and Birthing Pavilion of Morris Heights Health Center). In 1989 the Center's model HIV Treatment and Prevention Program was selected by the federal government for replication throughout the country as a part of the Ryan White Title III HIV Program. In their efforts to serve more people, the Center plans to build a new \$29 million, 116,585 square foot, 6-story mixed use facility that will include low-income, senior citizen housing, commercial services and an expansion of medical services. This program, which is being constructed in partnership with the Mount Hope Housing Company, shows an increased understanding that healthcare and housing issues are intertwined.

Mr. Speaker, Morris Heights Health Center has served as a strong voice for the medically underserved in my community. They have helped thousands of Bronx residents address their healthcare needs without mortgaging their futures. In a district in which impoverished families struggle to make ends meet, it is comforting to know that such a dedicated organization is working to ensure residents receive quality health services. I am glad to count organizations such as Morris Heights Health Center Foundation as allies in the effort to improve the neighborhoods and communities in the Bronx. I want to thank Morris Heights Health Center for their twenty five years of service to the people of the Bronx and I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this fine organization.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS GAVIN J.
COLBURN

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and community of PFC Gavin J. Colburn upon the death of this outstanding soldier.

PFC Colburn was a member of the Army Reserve's 656th Transportation Company of Springfield, Ohio serving his great nation in the country of Iraq. He was a loving son to his parents, Tony and Tina, a caring brother to Matthew, and a loving fiancée to Sarah Kern. PFC Colburn was an active citizen in his community and did his best to make his neighborhood a better place to live.

PFC Colburn will be remembered for his unsurpassed sacrifice of self while protecting others. His example of strength and fortitude will be remembered by all those who knew him.

While words cannot express our grief during the loss of such a courageous soldier, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family, friends, and colleagues of PFC Gavin J. Colburn. His service has made us proud.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday April 27, 2005 on rollcall vote No. 140 I was recorded as "no" I intended to vote "yes." In addition, on Wednesday April 27, 2005 on rollcall vote No. 144 I was recorded as "yes." I intended to vote "no."

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION
NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House passed the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act with overwhelming majority support, ensuring a parent's right to involvement in important decisions concerning their children and strengthening American families' bonds.

This bill makes it a crime to transport a minor across state lines to avoid required parental consent for an abortion in their home state. It also compels abortion providers in a state without safety laws to notify a parent before performing the surgery.

Today states require written parental consent before a minor can get a tattoo or a body piercing, yet persons other than an adolescent's parents can facilitate aborting a life by simply driving them across state lines. Parents must play a primary role in the healthcare of their minor daughters. These are our children

and we are responsible to them and our communities to be involved in these critical choices, teaching them responsibility and good decision making.

The Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act upholds the safety laws of individual states and protects parents' rights to be involved in decisions regarding their children. I thank my colleagues who voted for this legislation and urge the Senate to quickly pass this legislation to ensure the safety of our children.

INTRODUCING THE WATER FOR THE POOR ACT OF 2005

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Water for the Poor Act of 2005, with Representatives CLAY SHAW, TOM LANTOS, JIM LEACH, GEORGE MILLER, and TOM TANCREDI as original cosponsors. The Water for the Poor Act complements legislation introduced by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, S. 492, the "Safe Water: Currency for Peace Act."

This bill highlights a pressing issue: up to 5 million people die each year from lack of access to clean water and sanitation, including 1 child every 15 seconds. One in six people in the world—over 1.1 billion people—lack access to clean water and one in three people—over 2.3 billion people—don't have access to adequate sanitation. As half of the people in the developing world are sick at any given time from a water-related disease, water and sanitation access is a major barrier to fighting poverty and increasing economic productivity.

The Water for the Poor Act focuses American efforts to meet President Bush's commitment to cut in half the percentage of people without access to water and sanitation by 2015. This bill makes expanding access to clean water and sanitation a major objective for U.S. development efforts. It highlights innovative funding methods to increase the amount of public and private resources available and requires USAID to develop a strategy and measurable goals for increasing water access in an affordable and equitable way.

A TRIBUTE TO MADAME FAUSTA DELBEAU ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Fausta Delbeau in honor of her 100th birthday which she will celebrate on April 30.

Fausta was born in Jacmel, Haiti on April 30, 1905. She was married to Jeannel Delbeau. They had seven children: Nirva, Paulette, Yves, Marie-Theresa, Jean Claude, Claudette and Adeline. She moved to Cuba in the 1940's before Fidel Castro's rise to power. Fausta left in the 1960's, just a little while after Castro took over, migrating to the United States of America where she has permanently resided since then.

Mrs. Fausta Delbeau has been a U.S. citizen for more than 20 years. She has worked very hard, through difficult and trying times and circumstances, to educate and provide for her immediate and extended family members.

A devout Christian believer in the Seventh-Day Adventist message, Mrs. Delbeau has been an active and fervent member of the Hebron S.D.A. Church in Brooklyn, NY. She is now a member of Maranatha! French & Creole Speaking S.D.A. Church in Queens, NY. She has always devoted her heart to the work of charity and community service both with the church and in her personal life.

Mr. Speaker, Madame Fausta Delbeau has lived a long and fruitful life in three different countries. She has remained true to her Christian beliefs throughout her 100 years and as such is worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING PINE FORGE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Pine Forge Athletic Association on the occasion of its 35th anniversary.

In 1970, the Pine Forge Athletic Association was founded by Merle Harner and Robert "Skip" Trainer. Both men had young children who wanted to be involved in youth sports, but the neighboring area sports programs were overcrowded. Mr. Harner and Mr. Trainer took it upon themselves to create the Pine Forge Athletic Association in order to give the youth of the community an opportunity to play baseball and softball with their friends and neighbors.

The Association started with a philosophy and a mission to provide insightful instruction on the basic fundamentals of baseball and softball, while at the same time instilling the players with moral values and good sportsmanship. The Association also emphasized giving each team member an opportunity to play in each game.

The first team in 1970 had approximately 12–15 players and played at a small field at the Pine Forge Elementary School. Since the early 1970s, the Pine Forge Athletic Association has grown tremendously in size. Today, there are nine different divisions in the Association that accommodate players from the ages of five to nineteen. To accommodate the large number of participants, the Association utilizes at least fifteen different locations that host Little League, t-ball, softball, and a rookie league.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring not only the Pine Forge Athletic Association for the positive contributions it has made to the citizens of Berks County, Pennsylvania, but also Merle Harner and Robert "Skip" Trainer for helping with the positive development of the moral, physical, and emotional well-being of the young men and women who have participated in the Pine Forge Athletic Association over the past 35 years.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CONNIE HEADRICK, RAHE BULVERDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Connie Headrick, Rahe Bulverde Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Connie Headrick holds a Bachelor's degree from Dakota State College in Madison, South Dakota, and a Master's degree from the National Louis University, European Region. She has 30 years of experience as an educator. Today, she is a Resource Special Education teacher at Rahe Bulverde Elementary School, in the Comal Independent School District.

Ms. Headrick believes that the best results are achieved by treating each child as an individual. She summarizes her teaching philosophy by saying, "each student has needs, and addressing these needs with respect gives the child value." Once children learn to value themselves, Ms. Headrick says, they can begin to accomplish their goals.

Connie Headrick is a valuable and dedicated educator. Her 30 years of experience have made her an effective teacher and a tremendous resource for her students, and for the families of the Comal Independent School District. By teaching her students how to value themselves and see their own potential, she opens up a brighter future for them. She is truly a credit to her profession, and I am proud to have the chance to recognize her here.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy:

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, our country needs to reduce its dependence on foreign oil and increase its national energy independence. Increasing our energy independence will stabilize future energy prices, benefit American consumers and businesses, and enhance both our energy security and our national security.

As a member of the House Renewable Energy Caucus, I have supported measures to encourage and increase the use of renewable and alternative energy sources. H.R. 6 included tax incentives for energy efficiency programs and renewable energy sources such as wind and solar production that I would like to vote for. As a co-chair of the Biofuels Fuels Caucus, I also support the renewable fuels standard which I have promoted to decrease our dependency on foreign oil, help U.S. farmers and protect the environment.

There are several issues, however, that concern me about H.R. 6, and these issues have continually blocked congressional passage of comprehensive energy legislation over

the last few years. It has become clear that removing these provisions would ensure that the Senate will pass, and the President will sign, this measure.

Section 22 of H.R. 6, provides for drilling in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). While some consider this area to be one of the most promising U.S. onshore oil and gas prospects, studies indicate that this area could only provide six month's supply of oil, 10 years from now, and consequently have no significant effect on our nation's dependence on foreign oil. This 1.5 million acre coastal plain, however, is an area often referred to as "America's Serengeti" because of the presence of caribou, polar bears, grizzly bears, wolves, migratory birds, and many other species living in a nearly undisturbed state. In fact, the Refuge and two neighboring parks in Canada have been proposed for an international park, and several species in the area are protected by international treaties or agreements. In the 108th Congress, I supported a conference agreement on H.R. 6 that eliminated the provisions opening up ANWR for drilling. A future conference agreement needs to eliminate this controversial section from this bill to ensure its passage.

Title 15, Section 1502 of H.R. 6, contains a safe-harbor provision protecting producers of methyl tertiary butyl ether [MTBE] and other fuel oxygenates from product liability claims. This provision includes language applying the safe-harbor retroactively, potentially barring several pending suits against some of the worst environmental polluters in our country.

Under this provision, cities and towns would be prevented from bringing against potential offenders "defective product" lawsuits, which some cities have employed to recapture the cost of MTBE clean ups. Approximately 130 lawsuits have been filed by states, cities, water districts, and businesses over MTBE contamination. The trade association for the MTBE industry conservatively estimates that a nationwide cleanup of MTBE will cost between \$500 million and \$1 billion. The U.S. Conference of Mayors, however, maintains that those costs could run higher than \$29 billion. Our states and localities, which are struggling with budget deficits, should not be forced to pay the tab for these clean ups. If our states and localities are forced to pay these costs, the real costs will be borne by taxpayers, who should not be responsible for the actions of a few MTBE producers.

I also cannot support provisions in this legislation that do nothing to safeguard electricity consumers from unscrupulous utility companies that abuse market power and manipulate electricity prices. Rather than holding these electricity companies accountable, this bill would weaken consumer protections regarding electricity. I supported Representative JOHN DINGELL's amendment that would have protected electricity consumers by increasing penalties for violations of the Federal Power Act and would authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to refund electricity overcharges. Unfortunately, the House defeated this amendment that would have helped safeguard electricity consumers.

I urge my colleagues to work together to pass a true comprehensive energy legislation that is fiscally responsible and that protects consumers, our communities, and environmentally sensitive areas. Our national energy situation should not be a partisan issue, and

I hope that both parties can come together to do the right thing for America.

CONGRATULATING THE TRINITY VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE CARDINAL CHEERLEADERS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to congratulate the Trinity Valley Community College (TVCC) Cardinal Cheerleaders for their recent victory in the National Cheerleaders Association Junior College Division Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida. The Cardinal Cheerleaders posted an impressive score of 9.04 in the final round, earning TVCC their eighth national cheerleading title, the team's third since 2001.

On behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I would like to extend my congratulations to all of the members of the TVCC Cheerleading team including: Kolan Lynch, Amber Trahan, Dreekus Burton, Eric Mahame, Loren Taylor, Kynan Downs, Jacqueline Vogel, Andy Cessac, Erica Weems, Charles Gilbert, Kyle McCall, Courtney Pike, Danny Ogura, Jennifer Tacker, Adam Yeatts, Lindsey Gonzales, Jesse Salas, Drew Clements, Megan Centeno, Dion Bagby, Wendy Hall, Kyle Fowler, Roxann Wylie, and Greg Smalley. I would also like to congratulate their coach, Lucy Strom, on their tremendous victory.

The Cardinal Cheerleaders exemplify the hard work and team spirit of TVCC's student body and the institution's continuing commitment to excellence.

TRI-CAUCUS MINORITY HEALTH BILL

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the Tri-Caucus commemorates and closes Minority Health Month by offering the "The Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act of 2005".

I join my colleagues in calling for bipartisan support and immediate consideration of the Tri-Caucus minority health disparities bill which will provide long-needed resources to combat the growing racial and ethnic health disparities in minority communities across the country.

The tri-caucus bill re-prioritizes and funds efforts for prevention, education and data-collection; all essentials to reduce the overall cost of treatment and reduce disproportionately high rates of emergency health services in minority communities.

Equality in health service is still a distant and difficult goal. Until the United States makes health care a basic human and civil right we will never close the disparities gap.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is criminal that in the United States the color of your skin and the languages that you speak can make you more likely to die of HIV/AIDS, heart disease or diabetes, as a result of our broken and culturally insensitive health care system.

The numbers are staggering: Cancer: African Americans are 23 percent more likely to die from all types of cancer than Whites. African American men die twice as often from prostate cancer than Whites.

Cancer: Breast cancer is diagnosed 13 percent less frequently in African American women than White women; however African American women die more often.

Heart Disease: African Americans suffer the most from the disease. Around 40 percent of African American men and women have some form of heart disease, compared to 30 percent of White men and 24 percent of White women. African Americans are also 29 percent more likely to die from the disease than Whites.

Diabetes: African Americans are twice as likely to have diabetes as Whites. African Americans with diabetes are more likely to experience complications of diabetes.

Diabetes: Diabetes related eye disease, is 40 to 50 percent more common in African Americans than Whites. Kidney failure is about 4 times more common in African Americans with diabetes than in Whites with diabetes. Amputations of lower extremities (legs and feet) are also more common in African Americans with diabetes.

Diabetes: As of 2002, two million Hispanic adults, about 8.2 percent of the population, have diabetes. About one-third of Hispanics with diabetes are undiagnosed. Hispanics are 1.5 times as likely to have diabetes as Whites. And, in 2001 the death rate from diabetes in Hispanics was 40 percent higher than the death rate of Whites.

I could go on and on, but I'll just end this list of statistics by giving you a quick overview of HIV/AIDS in our communities. HIV/AIDS has had a devastating impact on minorities in the United States.

HIV/AIDS: Racial and ethnic minorities accounted for almost 70 percent of the newly diagnosed cases of HIV and AIDS in 2002. More than 90 percent of babies born with HIV belong to minority groups.

HIV/AIDS: More than 54 percent (14,398) of HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 2002 were in African Americans. African Americans are ten times more likely to die of AIDS than Whites.

HIV/AIDS: AIDS is the leading cause of death in African American women aged 25–34 and the third leading cause of death in African American men in the same age group. More than 64 percent of HIV positive infants are African American.

HIV/AIDS: HIV/AIDS is spreading at a rapid rate in the Hispanic community. Hispanics accounted for around 20 percent of AIDS cases in 2002, despite making up only 14 percent of the U.S. population. Hispanics are 60 percent more likely to be diagnosed with AIDS than Whites. Hispanics were also almost three times more likely to die of AIDS than their White counterparts in 2001.

The Congressional Black Caucus, Hispanic Caucus and Asian Pacific Islander Caucuses have come together because we see the need to offer solutions for the inclusion and the prioritizing of minorities in the health care system which today is sorely inadequate.

Our goal, like that of the American public, is the complete elimination of racial and ethnic health disparities.

I believe that with this bill we have provided a good first step toward that goal.

In this bill, we have diagnosed the major health care shortfalls and provided sound and culturally-conscious solutions.

The goal of this bill is nothing short of the complete elimination of these racial and ethnic disparities. In this bill, we have assessed the foremost health care shortfalls of our current system, and provided sound and culturally conscious solutions.

1. We have called for an expansion of the health care safety net, which will increase access to quality health care coverage.

2. We state that health care be should be considered not only a human right but a civil right, and as such must be protected under the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

3. We ask for the widespread, comprehensive, collection and dissemination of health data on minorities to become a top priority for the health care community.

4. In order to appropriately target the diseases that are plaguing minority peoples, we must first make sure that we have an accurate picture of the challenge we are facing. And we must use this information to make sure that everyone is aware of these statistics, so they know the risks.

5. We ask for a complete assault on HIV/AIDS and other diseases that are disproportionately killing the minority community.

6. By enacting this bill, we correct a major problem in America: ending minority health disparities and diversify health care workforce.

Mr. Speaker, the issue here is that millions of Americans, half of whom are minorities, go undiagnosed and uncared for because they lack adequate health care.

Instead of privatizing social security and cutting Medicaid, our President should help African Americans, Latinos, Asian and Pacific Islanders and Native Americans live longer, healthier lives.

The President should not rely on the shorter life expectancy of African Americans or other minorities—he should fix the root of the problem—fix our health care system.

Mr. Speaker, it is our priority to stop the dangerous cycle of shorter life spans and poor quality, inaccessible health care for minorities in this country.

We stand committed because we cannot stand for continued rates of prostate and breast cancer, diabetes, and high blood pressure to take the lives of minority peoples around this country.

If we are to ensure that we are all equal, then we cannot ignore the inequalities inherent in our current health care system.

And finally, we cannot stand in the halls of this Congress and allow a prescription drug bill, an HIV/AIDS bill, or any other health bill pass that doesn't have a focus on African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, or our Asian and Pacific Island communities.

Today, we are united for all minorities across this country, and we will win the battle against ethnic and racial health disparities.

WORKPLACE WRONGFUL DEATH ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2005

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, it is altogether fitting and appropriate to commemorate Work-

ers' Memorial Day this year by introducing the "Workplace Wrongful Death Accountability Act of 2005." I am very pleased to join my colleague from New Jersey, Senator JON CORZINE, in introducing this bill aimed at saving workers lives. Senator CORZINE and I sponsored identical legislation in the 108th Congress. The bill would amend the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act in 3 simple ways. First, it would stiffen sanctions for worker deaths caused by an employer's willful violations of basic safety standards. Under current law, the sanction is a mere misdemeanor which carries a fine of no more than \$10,000 and a prison sentence of no more than 6 months. As the first librarian to become a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, I can vouch for the fact that some local jurisdictions seek harsher penalties for failure to return a library book.

This bill would make corporate manslaughter a felony offense, with the possibility of sentences that might range from no time behind bars to up to 10 years in prison. Upon a second offense, the maximum sentence could be doubled. Second, this bill would double the penalty for illicitly warning of an OSHA inspection, from a maximum of 6 months to up to 2 years in prison. Third, my bill would increase the penalty for lying to or misleading OSHA, from a 6 months maximum to 1 year's imprisonment. In all three instances, fines would be decided upon in accordance with title 18 of the U.S. code, which is standard criminal law and longstanding criminal procedure.

The reason we need this bill is very clear: the Federal Government is itself guilty of gross negligence in efforts to deter corporate manslaughter. As David Barstow of the New York Times noted last year in his remarkable investigative series on worker deaths in this country, OSHA has an astonishing 20 year track record of failure to seek criminal prosecution when an employer's willful and flagrant safety violations lead to worker deaths. It isn't that the Department of Labor (DOL) doesn't know how to seek criminal sanctions. Anyone who visits the DOL website will see an exhaustive list of prosecutions undertaken by staff in the Office of Labor Management Standards (OLMS). From 2002 to 2005, the prosecutions sought by OLMS fill up 111 pages, typewritten with a very small font. The difference is that these are prosecutions against union officials for a vast array of minor offenses. Contrast that with OSHA's failure to seek criminal prosecution in a staggering 93 percent of worker death cases, investigated by the agency over the past 2 decades. These deaths were caused by an employer's gross negligence or willful safety violations. In other words, the employer placed a profit motive far, far above any concern over peoples' lives. In some instances, the same unscrupulous employer's pattern of egregious safety violations has caused multiple worker deaths over several years. In such cases, a misdemeanor penalty has no deterrent value whatsoever.

Holding certain local union officials criminally liable for minor instances of alleged record falsification versus handing employers who commit corporate manslaughter an automatic "get out of jail free" pass is a real statement of values and priorities. We hear a great deal from this Republican Administration about

the importance of affirming a "culture of life." Well, American workers deserve a "culture" of workplace safety that ensures they will live to go home at night and return to their jobs the following morning. When Congressman TOM DELAY was asked by an Associated Press (AP) reporter last year about the "Workplace Wrongful Death Accountability Act," he replied: "The worst thing you could do—telling a small business person that they could go to prison over an OSHA violation." But such ridicule and exaggeration offends any surviving relative of a victim of corporate manslaughter.

Every year, between 5000 and 6000 workers are killed-on-the-job, often in gruesome circumstances due to inexcusable safety violations. This bill is aimed at holding such grossly negligent employers accountable. It will not result in either wanton or reckless prosecutions of hapless employers. My bill is NOT a radical departure from current law by any stretch of the imagination. This bill simply corrects a glaring oversight in federal law and policy: the inability to pursue a felony conviction of an employer who willfully causes the deaths of workers. It is a moderate adjustment that is long overdue.

Review of a recent case in my own Congressional district illuminates the reasons why this bill needs to be enacted. Less than a week ago, the contractor and owner of Big Apple Development and Construction (Big Apple) pleaded guilty to causing the death of a worker by failing to comply with OSHA regulations requiring employers to provide employees with fall protection equipment. The death of one worker, Angel Segovia, and serious injury to two others occurred, when a building collapsed on Fort Hamilton Parkway in May of 2004. Big Apple was a repeat safety violator, having already received OSHA citations in 2001 for failing to provide its workers with fall protection equipment. When Big Apple's owner and contractor, Kang Yeon Lee, is sentenced for causing the death of Angel Segovia, he faces a maximum of 6 months in prison under the current OSHA statute. But Mr. Lee also pleaded guilty to mail fraud in connection with concealing his failure to pay workers the prevailing wage on a federally funded, U.S. Postal Service construction project. And for mail fraud, Mr. Lee faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000 for each count of conviction. The contrast between a six month prison term for killing a worker and a twenty-year prison term for mail fraud could not be starker. Enactment of the "Workplace Wrongful Death Accountability Act of 2005" would value workers' lives and correct such a disgraceful discrepancy.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to note for the record that the "Wrongful Workplace Accountability Act of 2005" is included in its entirety in a broader bill I am also introducing today, the "Protecting America's Workers Act." I urge my colleagues to respect the lives of all American workers and ask them to join me in sponsoring both these bills. Millions of hard-working Americans and their families deserve nothing less than such essential protection.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MELANIE TAYLOR, DEDICATED SPANISH TEACHER OF COMAL ISD

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Melanie Taylor for her outstanding contributions to education in the Comal Independent School District of Texas.

Ms. Taylor earned her Bachelor's degree in music from Texas State University in San Marcos. But having fallen in love with the Spanish language and culture at an early age, Melanie Taylor began teaching elementary Spanish in Mexico. Ever since then, Melanie has passed on her passion for Spanish and her appreciation of the Hispanic culture to every student she teaches.

Melanie Taylor has been teaching for 18 years and is now a Spanish teacher for seventh and eighth-graders at the Spring Branch Middle School in Comal ISD. She loves the "middle school attitude," and understands how to connect with her students during their crucial preteen years.

Melanie Taylor summarizes her teaching philosophy this way: "I work hard to teach them [students] not to settle for mediocrity and I try to lead them to become caring and kind individuals who will treat each other with respect and dignity. I try to be a good listener and to help them look for the best solutions to their problems using strong moral values." She has also been dedicated to helping Hispanic students gain a greater sense of pride in their heritage, and their roots. In her efforts, she has helped students understand the advantage and necessity of being multilingual in an increasingly competitive world.

Besides teaching Spanish, Taylor also is the sponsor of Spring Branch Middle School's Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). Through FCA, she and more than 100 student leaders plan socials and conduct community service projects. For her many achievements as an educator, Taylor received the Comal ISD's 2004 KENS5 TV Station ExCEL Teacher of the Year Award.

I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize such a dedicated teacher and community leader in Comal ISD.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MERLIN ROSEMEIER

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer condolences to the family and friends of Merlin Rosemeier, who passed away April 10, 2005. Merlin was a close family friend and served as best man in my father's wedding. He is survived by his wife, Ramona, nine children, 26 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one sister.

Merlin was born in Dublin Township in 1928. He attended school in Murdock and at the University of Minnesota. He married Ramona

Traxler on August 29, 1953, and settled into the family farm. He was a hard working dairy farmer and in 2002, his family celebrated owning a century farm.

He was also a very faithful man. As a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, he served as the choir director and I fondly remember him using his deep, rich voice to sing "Ave Maria," at church services. He said Grace before every meal and always added a Hail Mary for the crops.

Mr. Speaker, Merlin was a family man whose positive, friendly spirit resonated to those around him. Nothing ever broke his kind and gentle soul. He will be dearly missed by all those that knew and loved him and his memory will live on in their hearts.

IN HONOR OF LAUREL MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the Laurel Middle School located in Laurel, Delaware. Founded in 1683, Laurel is a small town in southwestern Delaware that is home to over 800 buildings listed on the National Historic Record. Named for the trees that run along the town's Broad Creek, Laurel is now home to over 3,800 Delawareans. In addition to many historic buildings and beautiful recreation areas, the town is also home to a public school that has proven itself as one of the best in the United States: Laurel Middle School.

I would like to personally thank Dawn Williams, a 7th grade science teacher at Laurel Middle School. Ms. Williams has made me aware of the strides taken by the school. As a benchmark for public education in Delaware, Laurel Middle School has been recognized with a Delaware State Testing Program rating of "superior." This recognition was made possible through the hard work of students, teachers and school officials. While it was the students who scored exceptionally on the test, it is the support system, led by Principal Julie Bradley along with parents, teachers, and administrators, who make it possible to achieve a superior rating.

Most notably, this achievement occurred in a poverty area school, showing that hard work and strong community support can yield outstanding results, regardless of income level. I am grateful for the work of everyone involved and am excited to see the youth of Laurel grow up to become the leaders of tomorrow. Once again Mr. Speaker, I commend the efforts of Laurel Middle School and look forward to following their future achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INGHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary

of the dedication of the Ingham County Courthouse. Construction of the courthouse began in April 1902 and the cornerstone was laid May 5, 1903. The original structure was finally completed in late 1904 at a cost of \$96,678.00 and was dedicated on May 9, 1905. In 1971, the courthouse was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Ingham County Courthouse is a monument to the mechanical and architectural knowhow of the people of Michigan. Designed by a Lansing architect and constructed by Michigan contractors, the century-old Ingham County Courthouse stands tall as a testament to quality of Michigan workmanship.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation's historic places are a vital link to our past and mark the progress of our Nation. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of these historic buildings and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Ingham County Courthouse.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY LOU FRENCH, INGHAM COUNTY COMMUNITY NEWS 2005 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mary Lou French, the Ingham County, Michigan Community News 2005 Volunteer of the Year. Mary Lou French retired as a teacher, but still teaches about 700 school children every year about life on a farm. Mary Lou, who has maintained her active community involvement even into retirement, is best described in an article in the Ingham County Community News, written by Editor Rachel S. Greco:

MASON, MI—She isn't at the head of a classroom anymore but Mary Lou French, retired after 28 years with Mason schools, still finds solace when teaching.

At her 40-acre farm, French plays hostess to nearly 700 school children from Ingham County every fall. They take a trip there to learn a first-hand lesson in farm life. The pre-school through second grade groups are introduced to pumpkins, animals and hayrides.

"I had a hard time leaving teaching," said French, of her decision to invite students to her property. "It's just another way I get back to teaching."

In truth, French has been just as active in the community in retirement as she was before it. Her volunteer efforts are evident at the First Presbyterian Church of Mason—where she serves as a Women's Association leader and helps to organize various events and dinners.

But those efforts also extend out into the community, where French has served on the Mason Relay for Life committee since the event's local start, and in the schools where she volunteers to tutor young students in reading and writing.

All this activity is the sum of French's retirement, and she wouldn't have it any other way.

"I've been gone from home all my life," she explained. "I don't like staying at home so this fills the time."

This year, French will become the sixth recipient of the Agnes Comer Volunteer of the Year award, given annually by the staff of the Ingham County Community News.

Residents of Mason flooded the newspaper office with letters about French's good works, after the staff solicited nominations from the community this spring.

"All of Mary Lou's work in this community bears out her legacy," wrote Rex Hauser.

Others cited her willingness to reach out and help whenever it's needed.

"She is well known in the community and a person who people look to when no one else would take on a job," stated Cherie Mitchell. "Someone could say, 'Oh, let Mary Lou do it!' and it would get done."

Rachel Tear, office manager at the Presbyterian Church wrote that French's volunteer work within the congregation propels many activities forward. "Our church activities would come to a grinding halt if Mary Lou ever quit, so we would like your help in showing her how much we appreciate all that she does."

Among French's work with the church is her involvement in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Thanksgiving and spring pie sales aimed at raising money for the annual Relay for Life efforts.

French is also a member of the unofficial 'Flower Power Group' that maintains flower beds at the Ingham County Fairgrounds. When the fair is open, French is often in charge of exhibits.

Mary Lou extends herself to the limit," wrote Marie Wingo. "If you ever needed anything she would be the first to step up and help."

But French said volunteering as been as good to her as it has to the community.

"It's just personally very satisfying and I've gained a lot of good friends and people I've learned to love because of it," she said.

On Tuesday, May 10, newspaper staff and community members will honor French with a luncheon at Mason City Hall.

Still, those who know her understand that French isn't accustomed to or comfortable with the spotlight.

"The only 'down side' to this nomination may be Mary Lou's humble acceptance that she has not been honored before," wrote Hauser. "Her reward has been precisely only in the 'doing for others,' I am sure, from her point of view."

French said she is grateful for the recognition but would rather not accept it.

"There are so many other people who do so much work," she said. "I feel very honored that I am getting it but that's not why I volunteer."

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Mary Lou French for her commitment to serving the community. We are honored to support her efforts and extend appreciation for her tireless community volunteer outreach. Mary Lou French is truly deserving of our respect and admiration.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SUSAN DAWSON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Susan Dawson, who teaches at Specht Elementary School in the Comal Independent School District.

Today's teachers not only serve as educators but also as friends and sometimes even role-models to their students. Susan Dawson

is one of those teachers. Not only does she present the mere "textbook" information but she treats her students as if they were family. Ms. Dawson realizes that students are unique and because of this they require different approaches to being taught. This methodology of universal teaching has made Ms. Dawson the successful teacher she is today.

Receiving her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Texas State University in San Marcos, Ms. Dawson has accompanied her degrees with 9 years of experience in the classroom to establish a greater understanding of what students need from their teachers.

It is for this commitment that she has proved herself to be an invaluable asset to the students of Comal County, and it is with great honor that I recognize her here today.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES BORTHWICK AND EDWARD BOYLE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association in paying tribute to two of the Kansas City metropolitan area attorneys of distinction, James Borthwick and Edward Boyle. Today the Bar Association is presenting them with its Deans of the Trial Bar Award at their Bench-Bar & Boardroom Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks. Both of these gentlemen are longtime leaders of both the Kansas City metropolitan area's bar and of their home communities.

James (Jim) Borthwick is a partner with the firm of Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP, of Kansas City, Missouri. A magna cum laude graduate of Central College with a J.D. from the University of Michigan, he joined the Blackwell firm as an associate in 1964. With a practice focused on litigation in the areas of business and commercial activity, insurance and intellectual property, Jim defended accounting firms against claims of professional liability and manufacturers against products liability claims. He has handled more than 75 accountant and lawyer malpractice cases to conclusion over the last 20 years and was lead trial counsel in defense of a suit by the Resolution Trust Corporation/Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation against the former directors of Franklin Savings Association; the jury verdict for the defendant was described as one of the biggest defense wins of 1996 by the National Law Journal.

Just as importantly, Jim Borthwick has been active in a wide variety of community and charitable organizations, including: the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, the Friends of Art, the Friends of the Zoo, the Johnson County Democratic Party, the State Committee of the Kansas Democratic Party, Kansas City Consensus, United Community Services of Johnson County, and the Village Presbyterian Church. Professionally, he is affiliated with: the American Bar Association and its Tort and Insurance Practice Section, the Defense Research Institute, the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, the Missouri Bar Association, and the Lawyers Association of Kansas City, where he has served on the Board of Directors and as President.

Edward Boyle is of counsel with the firm of McCormick, Adam & Long, of Overland Park, Kansas. A magna cum laude graduate of the University of Notre Dame and an Order of the Coif graduate of the University of Kansas School of Law, where he was editor in chief of the University of Kansas Law Review, Edward Boyle also served as LTJG in the United States Navy from 1960–62. His practice areas include: complex litigation, land use and zoning, medical malpractice, medical products and devices, wrongful death and motor vehicle accidents. Prior to entering private practice, he served as Special Assistant Attorney General of Kansas for Antitrust from 1971–74.

Edward Boyle also has been actively involved in professional activities, serving as secretary of the Kansas State Board of Discipline for Attorneys from 1978–80, member of the Johnson County, Kansas and American Bar Associations (including as secretary of the Johnson County Bar in 1967), the Kansas Trial Lawyers Association and the Kansas Inns of Court.

Mr. Speaker, both of these distinguished gentlemen reflect creditably upon their profession and their communities. I am pleased to take note of the honors they are being awarded by the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association and I commend them to you and to our colleagues in the House of Representatives.

HONORING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE CITY OF MALAKOFF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to congratulate the citizens of Malakoff, Texas, on their Sesquicentennial celebration on April 30, 2005. For the last 150 years, Malakoff has been home to fine families and a wonderful community rich in the traditions of East Texas.

According to the Handbook of Texas, the area we now know as Malakoff was first settled by Jane Irvine, a widow from Alabama, who immigrated with her family to the area before 1835. Once settled in Texas, they built a gristmill on Caney Creek, and a small community grew up around the mill. In 1852 the name was changed to Mitcham Chapel after a Methodist church of the same name organized by the Rev. Hezekiah Mitcham.

Around 1855 the city fathers applied for a post office under the suggested names of Mitcham or Purdon. Both names had already been used. The Postmaster, who had been reading about the Crimean War, suggested the name Malakoff, after a Russian town that had gained prominence during the war.

Since that time, Malakoff has grown, but it has always maintained its small town East Texas roots. Lying at the gateway of East Texas, Malakoff boasts award-winning schools and plays host to the annual Malakoff Cornbread Festival.

During their Sesquicentennial celebration this year, the citizens of Malakoff can be proud of their past and optimistic about their future. As Congressman for the Fifth District of Texas, it is a privilege to represent them in the United States House of Representatives. On

this important occasion, I would like to extend my best wishes to the citizens of Malakoff and offer my heartfelt prayers for continued prosperity and success over the next 150 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, on April 27, 2005, in order to attend to a family matter, I was unable to vote on rollcall no. 145. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on H. Res. 241, a resolution to reverse the harmful and inappropriate changes that were made to House ethics rules by H. Res. 5. I voted against H. Res. 5 which changed House ethics rules when it came to the Floor on January 4, 2005 and the overwhelming approval of H. Res. 241 only underscores that the changes in H. Res. 5 were overreaching by the majority party.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S WORKERS ACT OF 2005

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, April 28th is Worker Memorial Day, designated as a time to honor the thousands of American workers killed on the job every year by willful or negligent safety violations on the part of errant employers. The surviving family members of workers killed by corporate wrongdoing deserve much more than just our sympathy, however. They deserve immediate Congressional attention and action. Today, I am very pleased to join with Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY in introducing legislation that promises such essential action by strengthening provisions of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act. The bill—"Protecting America's Workers Act"—would hold those who commit corporate manslaughter accountable at the same time that it reinforces critical health and safety protections for workers nationwide.

Even by conservative estimates, an American worker is killed on the job every 96 minutes. We read about these deaths in newspapers from the District of Columbia to Washington state. Only last month, for example, 15 workers were killed by a fiery explosion in a British Petroleum (BP) oil refinery in Texas City, Texas. Every year in New York City, construction workers are killed by free-falls from buildings and collapses of faulty scaffolds and concrete walls. Near Toledo, Ohio last year, 4 ironworkers died in the collapse of a massive bridge crane and 4 others were injured. And almost 6 months ago in Walnut Creek, California, a gas pipeline explosion killed 5 workers and badly injured 4 others.

In the words of a New York State Supreme Court Justice, these worker deaths were not simply "random accidents" but rather "tragic certainties." The workers died as the direct result of some employer's willful safety violations or serious negligence. All too often—and in the worker death cases listed above—employ-

ers responsible for these fatalities are repeat safety violators. In some cases, multiple workers in the same firm may die in identical circumstances over a period of years, without the responsible employer ever facing stiff criminal penalties or any prison sentence.

Under the current OSH Act, the maximum penalty any employer can receive for causing the death of a worker is 6 months in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Unlike surviving relatives of other crime victims, family members of workers killed on the job are left without any victims' services or assistance under current law. They even lack a voice in any Occupational Safety and Health Agency (OSHA) investigations of their loved ones' deaths as well as subsequent negotiations with culpable employers over any downgrading of initial citations and fines tied to the worker fatalities.

By stiffening criminal penalties for those found guilty of blatant safety violations that result in worker deaths, this bill will make other employers think twice about ignoring basic health and safety rules that risk workers' lives. It incorporates in its entirety the provisions of my bill, the "Workplace Wrongful Death Accountability Act," which makes it a felony offense to kill a worker and provides for a term of up to 10 years in prison. For a second offense, the maximum term for a culpable employer would be 20 years in prison. Likewise, maximum penalties for illicitly warning of an OSHA inspection or lying to OSHA would be set appropriately to serve a deterrent purpose. Under this bill, civil penalties are also set in accordance with the time-honored principle of deterrence.

The "Protecting America's Workers Act" would also extend OSHA coverage to millions of workers who currently lack the protection of workplace safety and health laws. Among others, these include public employees in a number of states and localities, certain transportation workers such as flight attendants, and a number of federal workers as well as those in public/private entities such as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Moreover, it provides stronger protections for any worker who reports the safety and health violations of an errant employer.

This bill requires OSHA to investigate any workplace incident that results in the death of a worker or the hospitalization of 2 or more employees. At the same time, it gives surviving family members of workers who are killed greater participation rights in OSHA's workplace investigation and "penalty negotiation" process with the respective employers responsible for these fatalities. Moreover, it prohibits OSHA from downgrading willful citations in worker fatalities to "unclassified" ones. Last but not least, the bill strengthens workplace prevention efforts by requiring employers to cover the costs of personal protective equipment for their employees.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the New York Committee on Safety and Health (NYCOSH), joined by like committees in the other 49 states, for launching a national campaign against corporate killing. This grassroots campaign will alert workers and the wider public about the importance of ensuring employers do not place profits above basic safety measures at the expense of workers' very health and lives.

As senior Democrat on the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, I want to recognize a number of my colleagues, including Rep-

resentatives MILLER, ANDREWS, LYNCH, DELAURO, and MICHAUD who have joined me as original cosponsors of the "Protecting America's Workers Act." Representative MILLER's 30-year track record of support for workers, as well as his role as senior Democrat on the Education and Workforce Committee is well known. Representative ANDREWS, senior Democrat on the Employer-Employee Relations Subcommittee is also author of a separate bill to extend OSHA protections to those state and local government workers who lack coverage by workplace safety laws. His bill is included in its entirety as a provision in the comprehensive bill we are sponsoring today. As a co-chair of the Labor Caucus in the House, Representative LYNCH is dedicated to protecting workers across the country. Through her actions on the House Appropriations Committee, Representative DELAURO has demonstrated her commitment to ensuring worker health and safety. And, by serving as a co-chair of the House Labor Caucus, Representative MICHAUD has also shown his dedication to workers' well-being. I thank them all for their cosponsorship and urge other members of the House to join with us in endorsing this legislation, critical to the well-being of America's working families.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the time for the "Protecting America's Workers Act" is now. Although we have made substantial progress in protecting health and safety in American workplaces since the OSH Act was first passed in 1970, that progress has stalled precipitously under the current Bush Administration and the Republican Congress. We must reverse this setback to workplace safety and enact this bill without delay.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE NAVARRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Regina Neely, Kate Russey, and Charles Sanford, the Navarro Independent School District Teachers of the Year.

Charles Sanford is the librarian at Navarro Elementary School. He holds both a Bachelors of Arts from Texas State University and a Master of Science from the University of North Texas. He has previously taught third grade reading at Navarro Elementary, and is committed to childhood literacy and to introducing all of his students to the joy of reading.

Kate Russey is the choir teacher and band director at Navarro Middle School. She graduated from Texas Lutheran University, and has been teaching at Navarro for three years. She is a critical part of Navarro's music program, and goes above and beyond her work at the middle school to serve as assistant band director for Navarro High School.

Regina Neely is an English teacher at Navarro High School. She holds a Bachelors of Art from Texas Lutheran University, and previously taught in the Seguin, Hayes, and San Marcos School Districts. She has been at Navarro for four years, and has been a tremendous resource for her 2 students, giving

them the language skills they will need to succeed in later life.

All three of these educators are a credit to the Navarro Independent School District. Teachers like them make our communities stronger and ensure a brighter future for our children. I am proud to have the chance to honor them here today.

HONORING COLLEEN CONWAY AS
A ST. PAUL AREA ATHENA
AWARD WINNER FOR 2005

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Colleen Conway, of Woodbury, Minnesota, as a St. Paul Area Athena Award winner for 2005. She is one of 33 female athletes to receive this award, which stands for character, longevity and durability. It is given for outstanding athletic achievement.

Colleen is a three-sport standout at Hill-Murray, a Catholic school she has attended since 7th grade. She plays soccer, hockey and softball, earning 14 varsity letters in total. She was an all-state shortstop as a junior softball player, has been named all-conference twice in softball and led the hockey team in scoring this past year. In soccer, she has played every position and once even played them all in the same game. She has earned a softball scholarship to the University of Minnesota for the fall.

A typical summer day would find her playing all three sports, morning until night. Even with all this activity, she maintains a 3.8 grade point average in school. In her spare time, she also helps out at her family-owned bakery in Woodbury.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent such a motivated and talented young woman. I join with her family, teachers, coaches and teammates in celebrating Colleen's outstanding accomplishments.

IN HONOR OF LA RED HEALTH
CENTER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the La Red Health Center, located in Georgetown, Delaware. La Red is an important and effective health care provider for the residents of Sussex County. The center provides bilingual high-quality and cost-effective primary and preventive medical care to over 5,000 Sussex County residents who are uninsured, underinsured or face other barriers to medical care. La Red's importance is highlighted by the fact that the United States Census Bureau finds Sussex County to possess the fastest growing Latino and African American populations in Delaware. With such growth, there are limited medical resources to meet the unique needs of these populations. For this reason, La Red's recent attainment of federally qualified

health center status by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is so important and exciting.

The center will receive \$650,000 in federal funding each year for the next three years. La Red will also receive \$200,000 a year for the next three years through the Rural Health Outreach Program, to support La Red's Prenatal Program. La Red has faced many hurdles on the path to receiving this distinction, facing challenges to secure funding and reach out to underserved populations.

In addition to the Congressional Delegation of Delaware, the staff at La Red deserve our highest praise. Over the past few years, they have managed to improve and expand services, while simultaneously reaching out to the Sussex community. By qualifying for health center status, La Red will continue to improve its services with such federal privileges as: the 340 B Federal Discount Drug program, which allows La Red to get discount rates on prescription drugs; applying for federal tort claims, which provides insurance to the center; and receiving federally funded technical assistance.

This is a very exciting time for La Red, but even more so for the growing number of patients in Sussex County—they have a reliable and quality health center they can turn to in times of need.

HONORING THE ECLC SCHOOL OF
NEW JERSEY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the ECLC School of New Jersey, in the Borough of Chatham, in Morris County, a vibrant community I am proud to represent! On May 5, 2005, the ECLC School is celebrating its Thirty-Fifth Anniversary.

For 35 years, the ECLC has been an accredited nonprofit school, providing special education for children. The children have severe learning and/or language disabilities, autism, or multiple disabilities. Students go to the ECLC School when their local public school determines that an out of district placement is needed. The school also serves an additional 110 young adults with Community Personnel Services (CPS), their supported employment program.

The ECLC School's mission is to help each child develop socially, emotionally, academically and physically. The program integrates academics with speech, language, physical and occupational therapies, counseling, social skills development, vocational preparation, activities of daily living and real job experiences. The goal is to prepare their students to face the world of work and to prepare them to integrate into the communities in which they live.

At the ECLC School, administrators, teachers and parents believe that maintaining student individuality is paramount to success. Because children's needs are always changing, the program is designed with flexibility in mind. Students work at their own pace, using a variety of creative and motivating materials. Students are measured by their own successes, of which there are many!

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of

the ECLC School of NJ on the celebration of its thirty-five years serving Morris County and Central New Jersey! And special praise is due to their dedicated administration, wonderful teachers, support staff, volunteers and active parents who work tirelessly on behalf of the disabled community.

CELEBRATING EL DIA DE LOS
NIÑOS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of El Dia De Los Niños. This event, held in Laredo every year on April 30, celebrates our children, the architects of our nation's future.

El Dia De Los Niños celebrates family values, and encourages children to develop the skills and habits that will help them in later life. This holiday is celebrated in over 75 cities throughout the United States and Latin America. The Laredo celebration has grown explosively, from a few hundred in 1999 to 14,000 adults and children in 2004.

This year's celebration will be organized by Mary Capello and the Texas Migrant Council, and will include an essay contest which asks: "How is honoring books the key to my future?" In addition, El Dia De Los Niños in Laredo will include workshops in book appreciation, classical music, and art, to help spark the imaginations of the city's children and to inspire them to explore their potential.

I encourage you to join me in celebrating all of our children on this April 30th. Our children genuinely are the architects of our future, and we should all work together to do what we can do to support strong families, better education, and a brighter future for the next generation.

HONORING DR. JOYCE GIFFORD,
RHODE ISLAND SMALL BUSINESS
PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Joyce Gifford, a veterinarian from Cumberland, RI, who was recently named 2005 Rhode Island Small Business Person of the Year by the Small Business Administration (SBA). Dr. Gifford is the owner of Abbot Valley Veterinary Center, a successful practice that employs a number of Rhode Islanders and provides extraordinary care for family pets.

Dr. Gifford possessed remarkable professional qualifications, having graduating at the top of her class from the Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine and worked in some of the nation's most renowned veterinary hospitals. Dr. Gifford had always dreamed of starting her own veterinary practice, but her aspirations were put on hold when she had trouble securing the initial financing. Seeking advice, Dr. Gifford turned to the SBA and SCORE for assistance. These agencies helped Dr. Gifford improve her business plan and provided the loan assistance

she needed to open her own veterinary center in 1995.

The Abbot Valley Veterinary Center quickly garnered widespread popularity. Dr. Gifford earned a reputation as a compassionate, dedicated, and experienced professional. Today her business has grown to serve more than 2,000 patients.

As her business began to take off, Dr. Gifford was diagnosed with cancer. Drawing on the courage and resolve that had come to define her professional career, and with the help of family, friends, and clients, Dr. Gifford successfully overcame the disease and today is cancer-free.

Over the years, Dr. Gifford has made many significant technological additions to her business to better serve her patients, and her clientele and staff continue to grow. In addition to being an accomplished entrepreneur, Dr. Gifford is also a philanthropist, and she supports a variety of local animal shelters and community organizations, such as the Cumberland Boys and Girls Club.

Dr. Gifford embodies the professional and personal character necessary to operate a successful business, and she now joins the list of distinguished Rhode Islanders who have been named Small Business Person of the Year.

I congratulate Dr. Gifford for her successful practice and dedication to her community. Small businesses are key to economic growth in my home state, and I wish Dr. Gifford and the 32,000 other small business owners in Rhode Island great success in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF QUALITY BANK VALUATION ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to eliminate endless litigation—and the associated economic hazard to Alaska—over the valuation of oil that is shipped through the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline System, TAPS.

The current litigation over this issue concerns valuations used in connection with the “TAPS Quality Bank,” which shippers make payments into or receive payments from depending on the quality of the crude oil they inject into the pipeline. This litigation has been ongoing since 1989, and there is no end in sight. Unfortunately, the incentive of parties to litigate is compounded because the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC, apparently has authority in these cases to impose changes in oil valuations on a retroactive basis.

My bill provides that, after December 31, 2005, the FERC will no longer have authority to apply changes to Quality Bank valuations on a retroactive basis. In other words, if FERC makes changes in the method by which oil shipped through the pipeline is valued, they must do so only on a prospective basis. This will impose a strong incentive for parties to the existing litigation to settle before the end of this year, and ensure, with respect to any future changes to valuations, that no TAPS shipper is exposed to the kind of retroactive liability that could accrue in the existing dispute.

Since its opening in June 1977, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, TAPS, has carried crude oil from Alaska’s North Slope to Valdez where the oil is shipped to market. The pipeline carries crude oil from various sources and of varying quality. The oil is injected into the line before the pipeline’s Pump Station One near Deadhorse, Alaska and commingled as the blended stream of oil travels south to Valdez. The TAPS Quality Bank was established to compensate producers of higher quality crude oil for the difference in the value of the crude injected at the North Slope and that of the lower-quality commingled stream received in Valdez, since each shipper receives a quantity of the blended stream in Valdez equivalent to the amount it injected into the line.

Companies injecting low-quality crude oil pay into the Quality Bank, while companies injecting high quality crude receive a payment from the Quality Bank. In addition, between the North Slope and Valdez, two refineries, Flint Hills and Petro Star, withdraw a portion of the common stream from TAPS, partially refine the crude oil into products such as gasoline, diesel and jet fuel, and reinject into TAPS the other components of crude left over after their refinery processes. Each fuel extracted from the crude is called a “cut.” To compensate other shippers for the lower relative value of the oil the refineries return to TAPS, refiners also pay into the Quality Bank. The objective of the Quality Bank is to make monetary adjustments so that each shipper is in the same economic position it would enjoy if it received the same oil in Valdez that it delivered to TAPS on the state’s North Slope.

The methodology used to determine Quality Bank payments has been a subject of controversy since the Quality Bank’s creation. The problem arises because there is no independent market for the crude injected on the North Slope and thus no way to objectively determine its value. The methodology is set by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Since the early 1980s, FERC-approved methodologies have been challenged in court and revised multiple times. In 1993, the majority of North Slope shippers proposed and FERC approved a settlement calling for the use of a “distillation” methodology, which would value crude oil based on the market price of various cuts created when the components are separated based on different boiling points—the distillation process. This methodology replaced the former “gravity” methodology where oil was valued based on its relative gravity.

Since 1993, disputes have focused largely on the valuation of cuts at the highest boiling points—the “Heavy Distillate” cut that evaporates at temperatures between 450 and 650 degrees F. And the “Resid” (residual) cut, which includes the portion remaining after distillation of all other cuts at boiling points up to 1050 degrees F. Two additional cuts are also at issue, the VGO and Naphtha cuts.

In 1997, responding to a DC Circuit Court of Appeals ruling, FERC approved a settlement with a revised valuation methodology for Distillate and Resid. Under the FERC order, the new valuation methodologies were to be applied on a prospective basis only. Later, the DC Circuit in 1999 told FERC to revise some particular details of the Resid valuation and also held that FERC had “failed to provide an adequate explanation” as to why the new methodology should not be made retroactive to 1993.

Responding to the ruling, the Administrative Law Judge, who in 1997 had decided that all changes should only apply prospectively, reversed his position and released a decision in August 2004 calling for changes in the Resid and Heavy Distillate cuts to be applied retroactively, in the case of Resid to as far back as 1993. In addition, the administrative law judge decided to apply new valuations for VGO and Naphtha, prospectively. Currently, the judge’s decision is awaiting a final decision by the FERC on whether to impose the Initial Decision or alter it.

There are clearly major public policy implications resulting from this Quality Bank issue. While the bank is a “zero sum” game as far as money paid in and out of the bank is concerned, the impacts on the parties and thus on the citizens of Alaska are anything but equal.

For decades Alaskans suffered from the effects of having to import all refined fuel products into the state from West Coast refineries. Besides higher prices caused by transportation, that left the state wholly dependent on fuel supplies that needed to travel at least 2,000 miles on average to reach Alaska consumers—sometimes through bad weather and difficult sea conditions. With the construction of in-state refineries, Alaskans finally saw greater security of supply, less dependence upon weather for shipment arrivals, and the possibility of lower fuel prices because of potentially reduced transportation costs. The greater dependability of fuel supplies improved aviation freight shipments at the Anchorage and Fairbanks international airports, helping create jobs in air freight and related industries.

The recent decision of the FERC Administrative Law Judge to apply new Quality Bank methodology assessments retroactively, however, places the economics of in-state refineries at risk. That in turn not only impacts the job security for the roughly 400 Alaskans who work at the refineries, but also threatens the state’s energy and economic security.

The problem is that both of the refineries must make long- and short-term business decisions based on crude costs when they process crude oil into product. Refineries optimize their production slates based on current market realities. It is difficult for them to operate, given low profit margins, if oil values can change years later as a result of Quality Bank decisions. They simply have no way to make rational business decisions when the cost of their products can be determined retroactively long after they can protect themselves for perceived mistakes in FERC-approved valuation methodologies. This certainly threatens the ability of the refineries to attract capital, money needed for them to modernize and meet new ultra-low sulfur diesel “clean fuel” requirements soon to go into effect.

My Delegation last fall in report language added to the federal budget expressed its concern with the equity of long retroactive Quality Bank valuation adjustments. Last autumn we urged FERC to look carefully at the justice of the Initial Decision of the Administrative Law Judge in this case and we encouraged all of the eight parties—including the State of Alaska—to reach an out-of-court settlement of the 1993 case to bring finality to this complex case before it harms in-state refinery capabilities. We wanted to avoid a legislative solution to this purely Alaskan case. We renewed our pleas for action in a letter sent to FERC on April 5th.

In the intervening six months, while two mediation sessions have occurred, the parties report little or no progress toward reaching a mutually agreeable settlement. While opinions may differ on whether Congress should intervene to settle the on-going case, there is little doubt that Congress should step forward to prevent such an arcane dispute from ever again threatening Alaska's energy industry.

For this reason, I am introducing today legislation identical to S. 822, already introduced by Senators STEVENS and MURKOWSKI, to limit the ability of FERC in the future to make retroactive the impacts of future Quality Bank valuation methodology changes. I plan to push for inclusion of this provision in the energy legislation being considered by Congress this year.

By this legislation, after Dec. 31, 2005, FERC still will be able to change the methodology for determining the value of oil flowing through the pipeline but will not be permitted to apply changes to Quality Bank valuation methodologies on anything other than a prospective basis.

I have proposed this provision to prevent this legal nightmare from happening again. This provision will first eliminate the perverse current incentive for all sides to promote further litigation regarding Quality Bank valuations based on the expectation of a retroactive application of changes that would result in a large economic windfall. The retroactive application of valuation methodology changes encourages the sides in a dispute to sue in hopes of gaining a larger benefit in the future. This is a "lottery," however, that Alaskans are guaranteed to lose.

By setting Dec. 31, 2005 as the date that FERC can no longer apply Quality Bank valuation methodologies on a retroactive basis, the legislation will put the FERC and the litigants on notice that the current dispute must be resolved by the end of this year.

Requiring FERC to apply valuation methodology changes in connection with any future disputes on a prospective basis only will eliminate the risk and uncertainty associated with the prospect of nearly unlimited retroactive application of Quality Bank payment methodology changes. That will allow all Quality Bank participants to be able to conduct business with the certainty of knowing that prices received and paid for oil today cannot be altered years down the road. In addition, this will eliminate the strong incentive that currently exists for some parties to engage in endless litigation, in hopes of gaining windfall benefits from retroactive application changes.

While I, along with Senators STEVENS and MURKOWSKI, continue to call on all sides in the current dispute to compromise and settle this case now, this bill will discourage if not eliminate this type of dispute in the future—a benefit for all Alaskans.

HONORING CHRIST MEMORIAL CHURCH WORSHIP AND MUSIC LEADER JOHN BRIGHT UPON HIS RETIREMENT ON MAY 15, 2005

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Christ Memorial Church Music and

Worship Leader John Bright upon his retirement. John Bright, who with the enduring support of his wife Marylin, has faithfully ministered for 40 years, including 23 years at Hope Reformed Church in South Haven, Michigan and 17 years at Christ Memorial Church in Holland, Michigan.

John Bright is a true minister of the Word through his music. He turned Wednesday evening choir rehearsals into a worship experience. He evoked passionate singing in all of the choir's music by asking each member of the choir to personalize the message. He faithfully taught the Christ Memorial Sanctuary Choir the power of communal prayer. His choirs will always be remembered for excellence in singing, bringing clarity to the message and praise to the Lord. John consistently sought to coordinate the message of the music with the message of the Word. He used his God-given gifts and talents to provide a worship atmosphere for everyone who attended his choral-led services. Every performance by John's choirs, be it in a worship or concert setting, was conducted in the context of Psalm 115:1, "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness."

His smiling personality refreshed the hearts of the saints as described in Philemon 1:7. John Bright emptied himself so that he could serve all. John's life and music always provide encouragement to those most in need. He brought joy to patients in nursing homes throughout the year, leading them in worship and giving them cards and gifts. He tirelessly accepted the many requests to minister with music at countless weddings, funerals and other events.

Let it be known to all on the 15th day of May, in the year of our Lord 2005, that the members of Christ Memorial Church and the Sanctuary Choir do affirm the above and ask for God's fullest blessings on John Bright as he and Marylin move to the next season of their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Ms. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following vote on April 27, 2005. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall vote 140, on Motion to Recommit H. Res. 22, expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that American small businesses are entitled to a Small Business Bill of Rights, I would have voted "no."

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MELINDA RIOS, ARLON SEAY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of

Melinda Rios, Arlon Seay Intermediate School Teacher of the Year.

Melinda Rios holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio. She has accumulated an impressive record of accomplishment in her 19 years of teaching.

Today, Ms. Rios teaches Science and Social Studies to sixth-graders at Arlon Seay Intermediate School in the Comal Independent School District.

Ms. Rios believes that teaching is an interactive process that requires adjustments and alterations to fit each individual student. She sees herself as a resource that students can call on as they work to achieve their life goals.

Ms. Rios' commitment to service, and her willingness to learn and grow in her chosen profession, have made her one of her district's most valuable teachers. She is a tremendously valuable resource for her students, and for all of the families of her community. Her hard work prepares her students for future success, and helps to make them well-rounded citizens.

She is a credit to the Arlon Seay Intermediate School, and I am happy to have had the chance to honor her here today.

TRIBUTE TO MIDAMERICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT RICHARD SPINDLE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished leader in the fields of higher education and community service who soon will be stepping down after 15 years of valuable service as president of MidAmerica Nazarene University, which is located in the Third Congressional District.

Dr. Richard Spindle is a visionary leader who oversaw significant expansion of MidAmerica Nazarene University during his tenure as president, including a major enrollment increase, construction of two new dormitories, the Cook Center and the Bell Family Arena. Founded in 1966, MidAmerica Nazarene University is a private, liberal arts university offering undergraduate and selected professional and graduate degrees. Since the initial semester of operation, enrollment has increased dramatically and now totals approximately 1,400. A Christian community in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition, MidAmerica Nazarene University seeks to transform the individual through intellectual, spiritual and personal development for a life of service to God, the church, the Nation and the world.

During the past 2 years, I have been privileged to work with Dr. Spindle in a successful effort to obtain federal funding for MidAmerica Nazarene's criminal justice instruction program. He has been a major force for positive change and advancement in the Olathe community and throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. I join with many of our neighbors in wishing Richard and Billy Spindle all the best as they prepare to move to Brazil in August in order to consult with Brazilian Nazarene College.

Mr. Speaker, I am placing in the RECORD a recent news article from the Olathe News, which details a celebration that was held in Dr.

Spindle's honor at MidAmerica Nazarene, highlighting many of the personal qualities which made him a popular and effective administrator. I commend him to you, Mr. Speaker, and to our colleagues in the House of Representatives.

[From the Olathe News, Apr. 24, 2005]
SPINDLE PREPS FOR HIS 'TRANSITION'
(By Arley Hoskin)

Leaders don't retire, they transition. And that's the way MidAmerica Nazarene University president Richard Spindle views his departure in May. The community gathered Thursday at the university's Cook Center to celebrate Spindle's transition. As leaders in the community spoke of Spindle during the gathering, it became clear that Spindle had both their respect and admiration. "We've been fortunate here to have a leader like Dr. Spindle," Olathe Mayor Michael Copeland said. In Spindle's honor, Copeland deemed the day "Richard Spindle celebration day."

MNU experienced extraordinary growth during Spindle's 15 years as president. But the focus of the evening was not on MNU's all-time high enrollment, the development of Cook Center, the ground breaking for the new dormitory or the plans for a new cultural arts center.

When people spoke of Spindle, they spoke not just of a man with many accomplishments, they spoke of a friend. "Some people you feel good about and relate to," said Ron Wimmer, Olathe school district superintendent. Spindle was that kind of man, Wimmer said, and he also brought credibility to the university.

Many of the school districts new employees graduate from MNU, but Spindle contributed more to the community than a pool of employees.

Wimmer enjoyed his presence at the Olathe Chamber of Commerce meetings and Spindle is someone whom Wimmer considers a friend. Wimmer is not alone.

A video shown during the celebration was filled with accolades from faculty, staff and alum. Spindle is the kind of leader who knows students by their first names, MNU alum Bryan Beaver said. Others agreed. "I really did not expect to be able to call the president a friend. I feel like I can say that," said Allison Bartholomew a 2002 graduate.

Students were not the only ones who noticed Spindle's caring personality. A person's handshake says a lot and Spindle's spoke of confidence and care. Frank Devocelle, CEO of Olathe Medical Center recalled the first time that Spindle shook his hand. Both men extended their right hands, and Spindle reached out and cupped Devocelle's hand with his left hand. "It left (me) with a feeling of warmth, a feeling of caring and a feeling of concern for others," Devocelle said.

Spindle was known for his concern for others. "He was a role model of servant leadership," said MNU chaplain Randy Beckum. "Not by power, (but) by integrity."

Spindle took pride in beautifying the campus—he not only helped developed plans for campus renovations, but participated in some of those ventures.

Alumni president Jill Kenney remembers planting trees along Mur-Len Road with Spindle and his wife, Billy. It was cold and the trees were puny she said, but the Spindle's had a vision.

The trees were just part of the Spindle's vision. Spindle developed a 100-year plan during his time as president and he was able to see the two new dorms, and the Cook Center and Bell Family Arena built.

More importantly he saw the lives of students change. "These 25 years have been filled with joyous opportunities," Spindle said. The students were always his main con-

cern, said academic dean Frank Moore. He was the same man inside the office as he was outside, Moore added.

Billy, who shared her husband's passion for students, was also honored at the celebration. Billy served on the women's auxiliary and generated more than \$150,000 worth of scholarships through the sale of birthday cakes and the MNU country store, now MNU mercantile and diner. Billy also is known for leading by example. "She is a part of everything, heart and soul," said Kathy Smith, who served with Billy on the women's auxiliary.

The Spindles plan to move to Brazil in August where Richard Spindle will serve as a consultant for Brazilian Nazarene College.

COSTS REDUCED IN HALL ULTRA-DEEP AND UNCONVENTIONAL ONSHORE NATURAL GAS PROGRAM

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I know you share my concern about the need to increase domestic natural gas supply—the cleanest of the fossil fuels. One sure way to do that is by developing the technologies that are necessary to produce our 1400 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable natural gas.

As the original sponsor, I want to commend Chairman BARTON, Chairman DREIER and Chairman BOEHLERT for their hard work to develop my ultra-deepwater and unconventional natural gas research and development provision that was passed by the House last week. It was a challenge to reconcile the different versions of the provisions that were reported from the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Science Committee. This natural gas research and development provision will increase domestic natural gas supply and lower the cost of energy to consumers.

The Science Committee, on which I am proud to serve, passed its provisions for the comprehensive energy bill in early February. Those provisions included a program in ultra-deepwater and unconventional onshore natural gas supply R&D that tracked the language in the conference agreement on H.R. 6 in the previous Congress. The provisions funded this program through \$1.5 billion in mandatory spending over 10 years. In the last Congress much good work was done to improve this legislation. That good work was reflected in the legislation reported from the Science Committee and I appreciate the hard work.

Several weeks later, the Energy and Commerce Committee, on which I am also pleased to serve, reported its version of the energy legislation which included a similar provision for the ultra-deepwater and unconventional onshore natural gas research and development program that complied with the \$500 million ten year mandatory spending limit contained in the House Budget Resolution. However, this provision was also problematic because the score in the first year was \$100 million.

The House Rules Committee was responsible for reconciling the differences between various energy provisions reported by several House Committees prior to consideration on the floor of the House of Representatives, as well as to ensure that the final version of com-

prehensive energy legislation complied with the House Budget Resolution. The ultra-deepwater and unconventional onshore research and development provisions that were sent to the floor and passed by the House are a skillful combination of the work of the Science and the Energy and Commerce Committees. The combined provisions provide the opportunity for implementation of a robust program of research and development, which the DOE Energy Information Administration says would both increase supply and pay for itself in the form of increased royalties, to help develop new technologies to find and produce more of our domestic gas.

It is my understanding that the gas supply R&D provision that was passed by the House was scored by the Congressional Budget Office at \$500 million over 10 years or \$1 billion less than the provision passed by the Science Committee. I believe that the return to America consumers—according to EIA, a rapid technology scenario could save up to \$7 billion in the year 2025 alone—is worth a \$50 million per year investment over 10 years. This provision would establish a rapid technology scenario for natural gas production in this country. It is responsive to both budget constraints and is good public policy.

I also commend the Chairman and Chairman POMBO and Chairman NUSSLE for their hard work to ensure that mandatory funding was made available for these vital natural gas supply research and development provisions and other measures in the bill. There are three other provisions in the energy bill that were also granted \$500 million in mandatory spending by the Budget Resolution. The energy savings performance contracts will improve the energy efficiency of federal buildings and help mitigate the environmental consequences of power generation. The domestic offshore energy reinvestment program will provide funds to Coastal Energy States from federal oil and gas royalties. The electric reliability standards enforcement measure will improve the reliability of the Nation's electricity transmission system. Each of these provisions addresses specific problems associated with energy production and consumption. And each, for different reasons, need to be funded outside of the appropriation process. I thank the Chairman for his time.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CORAL REEF AND COASTAL MARINE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2005

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Coral Reef and Coastal Marine Conservation Act of 2005. This bill will credit qualified developing nations for each dollar spent on a comprehensive reef preservation or management program designed to protect these unique ecosystems from degradation. This bill builds on the model of the Tropical Forest Conservation Act, expanding it to include coral reefs.

I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. ALCEE HASTINGS) for being the lead cosponsor of this bill. This very same bill passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 382–32 on October 16, 2001.

It is said that coral reefs are the rainforests of the ocean. Although they occupy less than one-quarter of 1 percent of the marine environment, coral reefs are home to more than one-quarter of all known marine fish species.

Coral reefs are among the most biologically rich ecosystems on Earth. About 4,000 species of fish and 800 species of reef-building corals have already been identified. However, scientists have barely begun to catalogue the total number of species found within these habitats. Their scientific value cannot be underestimated. Yet, they are disappearing at an alarming rate.

According to a 1998 study conducted by the United Nations and various international environmental organizations, 58 percent of the world's reefs are potentially threatened by human activity. These activities include coastal development, overfishing, marine pollution, and runoff from inland deforestation and farming.

More than one-quarter of the world's reefs are at risk. Predictions made in 1992 were that 10 to 20 years from now, another 30 percent of the world's coral reefs could be effectively destroyed, adding to the 10 percent that already were destroyed.

While these numbers sound alarmist, figures today show that they are conservative. Most Caribbean and South Pacific mangroves have disappeared, while India, Southeast Asia, and West Africa have each lost about one-half of their mangroves.

Almost a half a billion people, 8 percent of the world's population, live within 100 kilometers of a coral reef. A decline in the health of coral reefs has implications for the lives of millions of people who depend upon them. Coral Reefs are the basis of subsistence for the local-market fisheries in 100 countries, providing the protein for more than one billion people worldwide.

The burden of foreign debt falls especially hard on the smallest nations, such as island nations in the Caribbean and Pacific. With few natural resources, these nations often resort to harvesting or otherwise exploiting coral reefs and other marine habitats to earn hard currency to service foreign debt. At least 40 countries lack any marine protected areas for their coral reef systems.

This legislation will make available resources for environmental stewardship that would otherwise be the lowest priority in a developing country. It will reduce debt by investing locally in programs that will strengthen indigenous economies by creating long-term management policies that will preserve the natural resources upon which local commerce is based.

The Tropical Forest Conservation Act has set a path for debt-for-nature swaps, and the United States has an important role to play in assisting in the protection of the world's natural resources. This bill extends the support from forests to the oceans, and critical countries like Jamaica, Belize, Dominican Republic, the Philippines, and Thailand could benefit from this legislation.

Under President Bush's Enterprise for the Americas Act, the United States sponsored many debt-for-nature swaps to protect rainforests. It is now time to expand these successful programs to cover critical coral reef habitats.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF WENDY MCCUISTON,
SMITHSON VALLEY HIGH
SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Wendy McCuiston, Smithson Valley High School Teacher of the Year.

Wendy McCuiston holds a B.A. from New Mexico State University at Las Cruces, and a Master's degree from Texas A&M University. She has had an outstanding career in education, with more than 27 years of teaching experience.

Ms. McCuiston teaches 9th through 12th grade Family and Consumer Science at Smithson Valley High School in the Comal Independent School District. She is committed to teaching her students the practical skills that will stand them in good stead in later life.

She has distinguished herself as a warm and supportive presence in the classroom. Asked about her teaching philosophy, she summarizes it this way: "Treat people with respect, let them know you value them as an individual, and most of all show them you care."

Wendy McCuiston is an outstanding teacher, and her career has been filled with countless accomplishments, of which this award is only the most recent. She is a credit and a blessing to her community, and I am proud to have the opportunity to honor her here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes Nos. 133–145, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On Nos. 133–139, "yea"; on No. 140, "nay"; on Nos. 141–142, "no"; on No. 143, "nay"; on No. 144, "aye"; on No. 145, "yea".

RECOGNIZING WORLD WAR II VETERANS OF THE PLAINVILLE CHAPTER, DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to pay tribute to several World War II veterans in my district.

These heroic men, through their sacrifice and bravery, literally helped save the world from tyranny. They left their homes and families behind to fight on distant shores, and they returned home to help make this country the most successful democracy the world has ever seen. In many cases, they left as boys and returned as men, with a sense of pride for what they had accomplished, but also with painful memories of those who never made it home.

On Sunday May 1st in Plainville, the newly elected Commander and Officers of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5 Memorial of Wrentham will pay tribute to 11 of these men. They are: Owen W. Emery Sr, Alvin L. Berman, Caster Salemi, Charles Guinn, Army; Donald J. Calvey; Edmund F. Stoddard, Donald R. Flynn, Evan Gilmore, Joseph Goff, William Fermano, and Father Valentine Chepeleff.

This year, of course, marks the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. And this recognition ceremony represents just a small token of the great gratitude we owe these veterans.

I look forward to participating in this important ceremony. I know that all of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives join me in paying tribute to these extraordinary men and their families.

REMOVING NAME AS CO-SPONSOR
ON H.R. 513

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I have always supported meaningful efforts to curtail the increasing influence of money in the political process, and I will continue to do so. As our existing campaign reform laws continue to evolve in the real world, I find myself with a growing discomfort that H.R. 513, the 527 Reform Act of 2005, though altruistic in principle, may actually limit voices too dramatically without offering other alternatives as it attempts to rein in the disproportionate effect of large contributions. Because of these misgivings, I am at this time removing my name as a co-sponsor of this legislation. I reserve a final decision on whether I would sponsor H.R. 513 in the future or eventually support its passage to a later date.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for the week of April 25th through the 29th, I was unable to make it to the House Floor to vote because I was unintentionally detained in the African nation of Togo. I have traveled to Africa on numerous occasions in the past, both as an election observer and as a human rights ombudsman and advocate. Most recently, I was in Nigeria (in April, 2003) during the momentous election which underlined that nation's continual transition to democracy. Many Members of the CBC, including myself, attended, and we were more than pleased to see that the outcome was just, and that popular, fair elections instead of a violent military coup decided who would run the government. Africa is a continent that is very near and dear to my heart, and is an area of the world that is too often overlooked and ignored.

The recent presidential election that took place in Togo was the first election the country has witnessed in the last 38 years. As an invited election observer, I viewed with cautious

optimism how people nationwide went to the polls and cast their vote for the next President of Togo. From what I saw, a position which was supported by 160 ECOWAS (Economic Countries of West African States) observers and hundreds of independent observers, the election appeared to be "credible." Again, in my view, the election was a success overall, and I will be filing a complete report on my observations of the election in the near future. I would also like to thank the United States State Department for all of their help and support. Certainly, when a citizen of the United States leaves our country's borders, the Department of State takes over as the guardian and protector of U.S. citizens. Oftentimes, they do not get the credit they deserve for their hard work, dedication and service to our nation. I would like to particularly thank the United States Ambassador to Togo, Charles H. Twining, and United States Ambassador to Benin, Wayne Neill, as well as their staffs for all of their attention and assistance to me while I was in Africa.

Again, I was unintentionally detained out of the country while serving as an Election Observer for the Presidential Election in Togo. The airport in the capital, Lome, was closed, and the borders out of the country were sealed.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF STEVE FOSTER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Steve Foster, who teaches at Smithson Valley Middle School in the Comal Independent School District.

"In order to understand where you are going, you must first understand where you have been." This proverb teaches us a great lesson; we must understand the heritage and history of our nation before we can begin to understand ourselves. American history teachers help our nation's children get a better understanding of who they are by letting them know where they came from. Steve Foster teaches eighth-grade American History and is a great example of a teacher who finds new and innovative ways to engage students in learning about their nation's history. By captivating students about their own history, Mr. Foster lets his students get a better understanding of themselves. He describes the environment promoted in his classroom as one where "all students can learn about history while they learn to develop." Through his great commitment to his students, Mr. Foster has reached out to students not only as a teacher but also as a friend.

Steve Foster received his Bachelor's degree from Texas Lutheran College in Seguin, Texas. He has taught at Valley Middle School for eight years now and has been an irreplaceable asset to the school and the community. It is with great honor that I recognize him for his commitment.

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
SOCIAL SECURITY AND
LATINOS FORUM

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 25, 2005, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus organized a Social Security and Latinos Forum to address the Bush Administration's disturbing proposal to privatize Social Security. This forum was very important because as Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Health Task Force and Democratic Chair of the Women's Caucus, I believe we must discuss the impact of the proposed privatization to our Latino community.

The President's privatization plan will not help Latino families and will especially hurt Latinas in the future. Right now, Social Security gives people with lower earnings a greater return on what they pay into Social Security. Latinas will be especially hurt by the Bush Administration's plan because they are more likely to be employed in lower-wage jobs and have fewer years in the workforce. Latinas are already facing disproportionate pay gaps—they earn only 55 cents for every dollar that men earn, which is much less than national wage gap which averages 76 cents per dollar earned by a man. As a result, Latinas are less likely to have pensions or retirement savings to supplement their Social Security checks and money to invest in risky private accounts.

Let's look at the facts: About 46 percent of older Latinas depend entirely on Social Security in retirement; only 33 percent of Latinas have retirement income from savings or assets; and 60 percent of Latinas over the age of 65 would live in poverty without Social Security. If the President's plan to privatize Social Security moves forward, young Latinas in their 20s and 30s will see their benefits cut by at least 30 percent.

I am also very worried about how Latina mothers will be affected by the privatization plan. Latina moms rely heavily on their Social Security monthly benefits to provide for their families, especially if their husbands become injured or die. Latinos have higher rates of disability, and, consequently, are more likely to receive benefits from the Social Security Disability Insurance Program. The work injury rate for Latinos in 2000 was 16.7 percent compared to 11 percent overall. In 2003, the rate of fatalities for Latino workers was 13 percent higher than the rate for all workers. Many Latinas rely on disability and survivor checks to keep their families fed and clothed.

Congress needs to start talking about real solutions for Social Security that will help hardworking Latino families. We have and will continue to save, strengthen, and secure Social Security for our community. Once again, I thank the Congressional Hispanic Caucus for organizing on the Social Security and Latinos Forum.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 90TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARME-
NIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the one and a half million Armenians who perished in the Armenian Genocide that began 90 years ago on April 24, 1915. This is a sacred obligation that we undertake each April—to ensure that future generations of Americans remember the first genocide of the 20th century and to ensure that the men, women and children who perished at the hands of the Ottoman Empire are not lost to history.

Mr. Speaker, there is no dispute that what happened to the Armenian people is genocide. Thousands of pages of documents sit in our National Archives. One of these documents is a report from the American Consul in Trebizond, Oscar Heizer. On July 28, 1915, Heizer cabled the U.S. Embassy in Constantinople to report on the massacre of 180 Armenian road workers, who were shot and stripped of their clothes before being buried in the woods.

Newspapers of the day were replete with stories about the murder of Armenians. "Appeal to Turkey to Stop Massacres" headlined the New York Times on April 28, 1915, just as the killing began. On October 7 of that year, the Times reported that 800,000 Armenians had "been slain in cold blood in Asia Minor." In mid-December of 1915, the Times spoke of a "Million Armenians Killed or in Exile."

Prominent citizens of the day, including America's Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau, and Britain's Lord Bryce reported on the massacres in great detail. Morgenthau was appalled at what he would later call the "sadistic orgies" of rape, torture and murder. Lord Bryce, a former British Ambassador to the United States, worked to raise awareness of and money for the victims of what he called "the most colossal crime in the history of the world." In October 1915 the Rockefeller Foundation contributed \$30,000—a sum worth more than half a million dollars today—to a relief fund for Armenia.

Last week at the annual commemoration of the genocide here on the Hill, I had the honor to meet, Henry Morgenthau, the grandson of Ambassador Morgenthau. He is still carrying on his grandfather's mission to make America and the world aware of what happened.

The generation of Armenians with direct memory of the genocide is almost gone; their children are aging. Much of the rest of the world has moved on, reluctant to dredge up "unpleasant" memories and risk the ire of modern Turkey.

But even now, almost a century after the start of the genocide, some survivors are still with us. One of them, Ghazaros Kademian, is a constituent of mine. He is 96 now, but his mind is sharp and he remembers clearly the day when, as a six-year-old boy he and his family were forced from their house. He was from the village of Zaitoun, located southeast of present day Turkey. Kademian's father stayed behind to defend his homeland and was murdered. His mother took his hand and ran away.

Kademian and his mother had no shoes, coats, food, or money. They had to leave everything behind for the Turks. He does not remember all the details of their long journey, except it was harsh, cold, and dangerous, because they had no idea where they were going.

The boy and his mother ended their flight in Kirkuk, in what is now northern Iraq. He remembers very vividly that the first night in Kirkuk they hugged each other for warmth and slept in front of a church for protection. In the morning he woke up; but his mother did not move, she was frozen and dead. He was left alone, homeless, in a town where he did not speak the same language.

What happened to Ghazaros Kademian's family was terrible and tragic, but not uncommon. All over the Ottoman Empire Armenian children and their parents fled from their homes with only the clothes on their backs. But for those of us who care deeply about this issue, Kademian's story is a reminder that we must redouble our efforts to ensure that our nation, which has championed liberty and human rights throughout its history, is not complicit in Ankara's effort to obfuscate what happened between 1915 and 1923. Worse still, by tacitly siding with those who deny the Armenian Genocide, we have rendered hollow our commitment to "never again" let genocide occur.

Within the next few days, several of my colleagues and I will be introducing a resolution commemorating the Armenian genocide. This should be an easy resolution for all of us—Republicans and Democrats—to support.

The reason that we have yet to succeed in passing a resolution honoring the murdered Armenians is simple: The government of Turkey refuses to acknowledge the genocide and has spent millions of dollars and expended countless hours of diplomatic effort to prevent us from commemorating the suffering of the Armenian people. Turkey's opposition has always centered on its assertion that acknowledging the victims of its Ottoman forebears would cause an irreparable rift between the United States and an important ally.

Last summer, during consideration of the fiscal year 2005 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, I offered an amendment to prohibit the Government of Turkey from using U.S. foreign aid to lobby against H. Res. 193, a resolution introduced by Representatives RADANOVICH, SCHIFF and the co-chairs of the Armenian Caucus, Representatives KNOLLENBERG and PALLONE, that officially recognizes the Armenian Genocide. H. Res. 193 had been cosponsored by 110 of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

My amendment touched off a flurry of activity by Turkey's lobbyists. According to a Foreign Agents Registration Act filing, lobbyists for the Government of Turkey made at least 32 separate contacts with U.S. Government officials over a 3-day period in an attempt to kill my amendment. These included telephone calls to the Speaker of the House, other Members, numerous congressional staff, an Assistant Secretary of Defense, National Security Council staff, the Office of the Vice President, and other State and Defense Department staff.

While Ankara's agents did not succeed in blocking adoption of the amendment by the House, it was stripped in conference and the full House never did vote on the Genocide Resolution.

In the name of Ghazaros Kademian and those no longer with us, I call upon the distinguished Speaker of the House to allow us to vote on a Genocide resolution this year. We must do it soon, for with each year the events of 1915–1923 recede a bit more into the dark of history.

HONORING CAPTAIN JAMES C.
CRONIN, USAF

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to U.S. Air Force Captain James C. Cronin of Elk Grove Village, Illinois. Captain Cronin, serving as navigator, and eight other Air Force servicemen were killed in the crash of a C-130 on March 31, 2005 during a night training mission in Albania. Captain Cronin was stationed at Royal Air Force Station Mildenhall, England with the 7th Special Operations Squadron of the 352nd Special Operations Group.

Upon graduation from Elk Grove High School in 1991, he joined the Air Force, graduated from Officers Training School, and became a navigator. He rose to the rank of Captain in 1998, and during his career, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding service to the United States.

Captain James C. Cronin, was a young man of 32 years when he made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country. Our deepest sympathies go to his beloved family, his mother Roxanne Galli, his father, James E.T. Cronin and his brother, Christopher T. Cronin, grandparents, and other family members and many friends.

We honor the memory of U.S. Air Force Captain James C. Cronin and the dedication and bravery with which he served our Nation.

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL
MINORITY HEALTH MONTH

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the critical need for racial equality in health and healthcare.

America takes pride in its diversity, defining itself as a melting pot of ethnicities and cultural backgrounds. We are a Nation founded on a commitment to provide equal opportunity for all. Though we have made great strides in the last century, we have not yet accomplished that goal, particularly with regard to health care.

The health and health care problems facing minority Americans are shocking. Numerous studies have shown minorities experience far higher rates than Caucasians of suffering and death from many diseases.

Statistics from 2000 show that American Indians and Alaska Natives were 2.6 times more likely to have diagnosed diabetes compared with Caucasians; African American and Hispanic populations were each 2 times more likely.

Furthermore, African Americans are 40 percent more likely to suffer from eye disease, 4 times more likely to experience kidney failure, and almost 3 times more likely to be hospitalized for lower limb amputations, all serious diabetes-related complications.

Heart disease and stroke are the leading causes of death for all racial and ethnic groups in the United States. However, rates of death from diseases of the heart are 29 percent higher among African American adults than among white adults, and death rates from stroke are 40 percent higher.

Although African-Americans and Hispanics represent one-quarter of the nation's population, they represent more than half of new AIDS cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control. Among children, the disparities are even more dramatic, with African-American and Hispanic children representing more than 80 percent of pediatric AIDS cases in 2000.

There are many more statistics I could give you, which demonstrate more disparities in obesity, mental health, cancer, emergency care and kidney disease. But they all point to one fact: racial and ethnic minorities are living sicker lives and dying younger.

In fact, according to the American Journal of Public Health, over 886,000 deaths could have been prevented from 1991–2000, if African-American minorities had received the same care as White Americans. Of course this number increases when you add in other minority communities, indicating the sheer numbers of American families affected. These numbers mean that someone loses a mother, brother, father, sister, husband, wife or other loved one too early—unnecessarily.

Mr. Speaker, we have invested a great deal in medical research, and have seen huge advances in scientific knowledge and technology to develop preventative treatments and cures. However, it is clear that the benefits of our investment and knowledge are not reaching all segments of the population equally.

The dramatic differences in health among minority populations are caused by many factors, including the lack of access to quality health care. Communities of color are disproportionately represented among the ranks of the uninsured. One third of Americans are minorities, but they account for more than half of the 45 million Americans lacking health insurance.

Additionally, it has been shown that racial and ethnic minorities often receive inferior health care compared to their white counterparts. There are many contributing factors, including cultural and linguistic barriers, a lack of trust between patients and health care providers, and prejudice.

The well-known Unequal Treatment study conducted by the Institute of Medicine, shows that, given equal income, insurance, and education levels, minorities are still less likely to receive adequate health care than Caucasians. Despite all of our efforts, and however subtle or unconscious it may be, prejudice still exists within our health care system.

Mr. Speaker, one-third of Americans are minorities. As such, one-third of our citizens live with a threat of inferior health and inadequate health care. For underprivileged minorities, this amounts to a death sentence.

We are at a critical juncture. The color of your skin, or the language you speak, should not decree that you are more likely to die from

cancer, from heart disease, from AIDS, from diabetes. It is time to make a reality of our vision of an America in which all populations have equal opportunity to live long and healthy lives.

The Federal government has recognized this serious problem, and we have set a goal of eliminating health disparities by the end of the decade. We have taken some important first steps, including establishing a new National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities within the National Institutes of Health. But we are halfway through the decade, and there is still much to do to prove this is not a hollow promise.

We need legislation that will clearly establish a base for building effective communication strategies and increasing awareness of health care providers and minority patients. Clinical studies should be redesigned to include more minorities. Health insurance coverage must become accessible for everyone. Our funding priorities must show our moral commitment to eradicating health and healthcare disparities.

We cannot place all the responsibility for a solution on minority Americans. Disparities are the result of problems inherent in our health care system that prevent quality care and allow disparities to persist. There are a number of factors that contribute including the lack of knowledge about how diseases can affect different races in different ways; insufficient training in medical schools; and, lack of diversity in the medical field.

Mr. Speaker, Congress and the Administration must assume the lead responsibility to achieve equality in health care. I urge you, and all of our colleagues, to join with me in supporting the Minority Health bill—soon to be reintroduced in the House and Senate and other critical initiatives to end minority health and healthcare disparities.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STACEY ROBINETT, REBECCA CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Stacey Robinett, Rebecca Creek Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Stacey Robinett holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Texas Wesleyan University. In her 11 years of teaching, she has established herself as one of her district's leading educators.

Ms. Robinett enjoys the challenge of teaching her young students a subject which will be crucial for their future success. This is why Ms. Robinett teaches fifth-grade math for the Comal Independent School District.

Ms. Robinett says that she is motivated by belief in what she is doing, and a constant desire to improve her methods. She sees teaching as a position of trust, and is proud to be responsible for the growth and happiness of her young students.

Stacey Robinett is an exemplary educator. Her energy and commitment to her students are an example for teachers everywhere, and

a credit to the Comal Independent School District. She has accomplished a great deal already, and she has a bright future in education ahead of her. I am pleased to have the chance to recognize her accomplishments here today.

THE PENSION PRESERVATION AND SAVINGS ACT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I have greatly enjoyed working with my good friend from Ohio, Representative ROB PORTMAN, on pension legislation for almost a decade. We have gotten good, bipartisan—even nonpartisan—legislation passed into law that has helped, and will continue to help, all Americans save for a better future.

I am very happy with the President's choice to promote (or at least move) ROB to U.S. Trade Representative, where I know he will provide an intelligent, thoughtful voice on trade. I look forward to working with him in his new capacity to provide a level playing field for U.S. workers and freer international markets for U.S. goods.

Today we introduce legislation that represents our progress on creating the next generation of Portman/Cardin pension legislation. These bills demonstrate the progress we have made and the goals we would like to pursue. I look forward to continuing this process that Congressman PORTMAN and I have started as I continue to serve here in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The bills we introduce today include a refundable, permanent savers' credit to give lower-income and younger workers more money to work with in saving for their future. We include incentives for employers to provide automatic enrollment in retirement plans to make saving easier for younger workers. We include incentives for choosing lifetime annuitant retirement, to ensure that retirement savings last a lifetime. This legislation makes permanent all of the pension improvements we made in 2001, including the availability of catch-up contributions, increased contribution limits, and increased portability of retirement savings.

The major difference between the two bills filed today is that the legislation that I have authored does not include increases to the income caps for Roth IRAs.

Once the Joint Tax Committee has scored this legislation, I intend to work with my colleagues to offer revenue offsets to mitigate any effect the enactment of this legislation could have on our budget deficit.

I want to thank my friend, ROB, for being such a good, steadfast partner in helping Americans to plan for their futures. His commitment, intelligence, and willingness to put aside politics to create the best policy have been a credit to him and have made a difference in the lives of countless Americans.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the House for the passage of H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Notification Act, sponsored by my colleague from Florida Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. This important legislation prohibits the transportation of a minor across state lines to obtain an abortion for the sole purpose of avoiding parental consent laws.

It is a tragedy to deny parents the ability to consult with their child at the most critical time. It is a parent who can provide the emotional and psychological support that their daughter will need. Additionally, parents know their daughter's medical history. They know any allergies that she may have to certain medications or anesthesia. In an era when a child must seek parental consent to receive aspirin from school officials, it seems reasonable to expect that a child seek that same consent to obtain a major medical procedure.

Mr. Speaker, I come from a state that requires parental notification. Yet out of state clinics are constantly trying to circumvent our parental notification laws. It is not an uncommon practice for clinics in New Jersey, a state without parental notification laws, to advertise in Pennsylvania phone books. In fact, these clinics will go as far as to highlight the fact that they will perform abortions without parental notification. The passage of the Child Interstate Notification Act will effectively put an end to this atrocious practice.

Also, it should be noted that in no way does passage H.R. 748 interfere with or supercede existing state law. This bill simply deals with the interstate transporting of minors. As a parent of two children, I appreciate that the passage of this legislation will ensure that children will not be transported across state lines to circumvent state law.

CONGRATULATING MR. AND MRS. ALAN AND JOAN HURST ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 50TH WED- DING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friends, Alan and Joan Hurst of Hinsdale, Illinois, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. In June, the Hursts will celebrate 50 years of marriage, and I would like to take a moment to congratulate them on this special event.

My husband Rody and I have known Alan and Joan for almost 35 years—as neighbors and as friends. When we first moved to our home town of Hinsdale, Illinois, they welcomed us into the community with open arms and open hearts. Together, we have enjoyed many years of friendship, including countless dinners, celebrations and family vacations.

The Hursts have been blessed with three children and eight beautiful grandchildren.

Avid world travelers, Alan and Joan have a wonderful zest for life and have always demonstrated incredible generosity, friendship and love of family.

Mr. Speaker, as a longtime friend, I wish to extend my congratulations to Alan and Joan and wish them many more years of love and happiness.

INTRODUCTION OF A PRIVATE BILL FOR THE RELIEF OF MALIK JARNO

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a private bill to make Malik Jarno a permanent resident of the United States and to end the protracted ordeal of immigration removal proceedings that have spanned almost one-quarter of this young man's life.

Malik is a mentally disabled teenage orphan from Guinea whose compelling plight has attracted the concern and involvement of more than 70 members of Congress, countless citizens, the international media and dozens of national, state and local organizations working with the mentally disabled, children and immigrants and refugees.

Deporting Malik to Guinea to face life-threatening circumstances would run contrary to the standard of human rights and decency this country maintains. Members of Malik's family were killed and his home was destroyed in the midst of ethnically and politically motivated violence in Guinea. Immigration authorities have received overwhelming evidence of Malik's shattered life and the serious risk of harm he faces, given his father's status as a prominent political dissident, at the hands of Guinean authorities. The heightened threat associated with Malik's deportation places a special responsibility on this country to consider the well-being and livelihood of this young man.

In addition, as a mentally disabled homeless orphan the potential risks of a life in Guinea are aggravated. With no known family or friends to care for Malik, he faces the reality of being relegated to the fringes of a society that has no infrastructure or services to support this young man's special needs. According to information from USAID, UNICEF, UNHCR, WHO and other agencies, there are no government or non-profit programs or legal protections for mentally disabled individuals in Guinea. Given his disability, he will face ostracism and severe discrimination and be extremely vulnerable to physical abuse, oppressive conditions and hostile treatment.

In an act of desperation, family friends that were looking after Malik put him on a plane bound for the United States. Upon his arrival at Dulles International Airport in 2001, Malik was detained by immigration officials and held in adult jails, where his special needs as a mentally disabled child were neglected in the company of adult convicts, for eight months, before he was allowed to appear before a judge to apply for asylum. Only after another two years of detention was Malik transferred from a maximum security prison to a refugee shelter in York, Pennsylvania.

On December 29, 2004, despite strong evidence supporting Malik, an immigration judge

denied Malik asylum. An appeal was filed with the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) on January 28, 2005. DHS possesses a travel document for Malik's removal to Guinea which can be used as soon as the BIA dismisses his appeal.

This ordeal has dragged on for too many years and the perpetual uncertainty has left Malik anxious and unsettled. He continues to study, make friends, and go to school in York, Pennsylvania, but with the constant threat of being torn away from his life in the United States. Malik has a promising future in the United States and this bill will provide Malik with a permanent immigration status and the path to becoming a productive and contributing citizen.

In these troubled times, where our reputation as a beacon for human rights has been challenged by the situation in Iraq, the United States has a heightened responsibility to guarantee justice and humane treatment to the most vulnerable in society instead of relegating a mentally disabled orphan to such a horrific fate.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BECKY STICH, COMAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the outstanding dedication of Becky Stich, Comal Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

After earning a Bachelor's degree from Texas State University in San Marcos, Becky Stich began a committed career in helping children. She has been teaching special education in Comal ISD for 14 years. Currently, she is a Behavior Resource teacher for all grades, kindergarten through 6th grade, at the Comal Elementary School.

As a Behavior Resource teacher, Stich helps manage behavioral problems at school and provides a safe nurturing environment for the children. She also helps the administration identify and implement appropriate behavior management ideas at school.

She summarizes her teaching philosophy this way: "One belief that I now hold is that teaching (and behavioral management) requires doing things with kids, and not to them." Stich understands that students need to have a voice in their own education. As an educator, she realizes the importance in watching, observing, and taking cues directly from the children. It is this philosophy that has allowed Becky Stich to become such a welcoming and great resource for children and educators alike.

Her attitude and dedication to children is an inspiration to the rest of the community. I am honored today to have had the opportunity to recognize her many contributions as an educator in the Comal ISD.

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month draws to a close, I would like to recognize the organizations and individuals who work so hard to break the cycle of violence within families. I urge my colleagues to continue to make eradicating child abuse a top priority, not just during the month of April, but all year long.

Throughout this month we have had many reminders of the tragic events that occur daily in the lives of children throughout the nation. We've heard speeches with startling statistics, stories about families torn apart by unthinkable violence, and we've worn blue ribbons to remember victims.

Sadly, child abuse continues throughout the year, and we all must recognize that child abuse and neglect is not just a family problem—it is a societal problem that requires the attention and efforts of each of our communities.

Effective child abuse programs succeed because of partnerships between social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcements agencies, government, and the business community.

The Exchange Club of Yonkers and the Westchester Child Abuse Prevention Center in my district are just two examples of groups that are making a difference both locally and nationally to eliminate the abuse of children. Both of these organizations work with families in a variety of ways to help break the cycle of abuse and educate the public about ways to help children who are victims of abuse.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to work with organizations nationally and locally to show children that they are a priority and to take a stand against the tragedy of child abuse and neglect.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my fellow members of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues to commemorate the Armenian Genocide. Today, I stand with them and with Armenian-Americans in the 6th District of Massachusetts as we rightfully recognize and renounce the unpardonable horror that occurred 90 years ago.

What began in 1915 when Ottoman Empire officials forcibly led Armenians to their brutal death lasted until 1923. Those 8 long years saw the deaths of 1.5 million innocent victims, who were unsuspectingly led from their homes, their schools, their places of work and worship only to be systematically slaughtered at the hands of Turkish guards.

All the while, the world stood silent, failing to act despite the fact the number of unmarked graves multiplied exponentially throughout Armenia. The tremendous magnitude of this

genocide did not move prominent nations or their people to act. This is why, today, as we remember the victims of the Armenian genocide, we must also reject our collective unresponsiveness to this mass murder.

Regrettably, this pattern continued throughout the 20th century—in Germany in the 1930s and 1940s, in Rwanda in the 1990s, and elsewhere throughout the world. Another such tragic example has emerged in Sudan. It is estimated that 300,000 or more people have been massacred in Darfur. One million people have been displaced from their homes, and more than 200,000 refugees have been forced to flee to neighboring Chad. We must not continue to ignore the dire situation in Darfur. In fact, the lessons of the Armenian Genocide, among others, should teach us that we must take further action in Sudan.

Today, I honor the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, offer my respects to those who were killed, and pay tribute to the commitment and perseverance of the Armenian-Americans who have tirelessly struggled to ensure that the great sorrow of their people becomes known to all people.

PRAISE FOR SOLVAY ADVANCED POLYMERS

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise a company located in my Congressional district. Solvay Advanced Polymers is a company in Washington County, Ohio that is on the cutting edge. But despite its success, Solvay hasn't lost its connection and commitment to our southeastern Ohio communities. Just a few months ago, we had a very big reminder of Solvay's commitment to the community of Marietta, Ohio.

As many in this House know, in January most of the state of Ohio was hit by a brutal snowstorm and torrential rain. In Washington County, the storm produced 40-year high flooding levels for the second time in five months. As you can imagine, the resources of community groups were already stretched thin from the previous flood. The Washington Morgan Community Action Agency was faced with the dual challenge of taking care of its own flood damage while helping its low-income clients through their devastating flood losses.

It was in this trying time that Solvay stepped in and offered assistance and support that went well beyond what anyone could expect. The employees and management of the local Solvay plant put their own personal needs aside to serve the neediest in their community at a time when many of them were likely suffering from the flood themselves.

As the board of the Washington-Morgan Community Action Agency said to the company in a recent letter:

"Solvay Advanced Polymers was one of the first businesses to respond to our request for flood relief supplies. Going beyond that you offered both people and transportation to help deliver the supplies we received. For two days your maintenance department employees took supplies throughout the area going door to door and business to business delivering cleaning supplies and water. Without you, get-

ting needed items to the community would have taken much more time, slowing down the recovery period.

In January our health clinic was inundated by flood water for the second time in four months. Solvay Advanced Polymers volunteered to provide the needed construction supplies and labor to restore the dry wall and carpeting to better than the original condition. Without your assistance we would have been much delayed in returning the building to a condition in which we could provide health services to the low and moderate income women that depend on the clinic's services.

While a number of Solvay employees were responsible for the wonderful assistance described above we wish to especially thank Max Blake, Maintenance Superintendent, Bob Bagley Maintenance Supervisor, Mark Martin, Maintenance Foreman and Grover Wallace, Human Resources Director. The contribution to this agency and the community made possible by your caring efforts cannot be over emphasized."

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all in southeastern Ohio, I would like to thank Solvay and its Washington County employees for their selflessness and service during last January's flooding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to share the story of Solvay and to give this company a recognition they most certainly deserve.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. RICHARD (DICK) BURDETTE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to announce the passing of a great Nevadan, Mr. Richard (Dick) Burdette.

Born on October 25, 1943, Dick Burdette lived his life in service to the American people. During the 61 years he spent on this earth, he accomplished many things, such as serving in the Navy, working as a Legislative Assistant in the U.S. Senate, and continuing his government work as a public affairs officer and deputy assistant secretary for the Department of Transportation. Dick also served as a consultant to public utility companies and several regulated industries before becoming Governor Kenny Guinn's top energy advisor, where he did the yeoman's job of helping to create Nevada's energy policy—a legacy that will benefit Nevadans for many generations.

Dick has done many great things for Nevada. However, what I would like to express here today is what a great human being Dick was. Everyone who came into contact with Dick could attest to the thoughtful and caring presence he eluded. He was always willing to help. As a matter of fact, when I held a hearing last year in Henderson, Nevada, on the rising prices of gasoline, Dick went out of his way to come to Southern Nevada to testify, and I thank him for that.

Dick leaves behind his wife, Julie; Megan, his daughter; and Ian and Richard III, his sons. He also leaves behind all Nevadans, whom will certainly miss his wisdom, expertise, and love for public service.

Dick Burdette, you will be sorely missed.

BUSINESS ACTIVITY TAX SIMPLIFICATION ACT OF 2005

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with my good friend Mr. BOUCHER, the Business Activity Tax Simplification Act of 2005. This important legislation provides a "bright line" that clarifies state and local authority to collect business activity taxes from out-of-state entities.

Many states and some local governments levy corporate income, franchise and other taxes on out-of-state companies that conduct business activities within their jurisdictions. While providing revenue for states, these taxes also serve to pay for the privilege of doing business in a state.

However, with the growth of the Internet, companies are increasingly able to conduct transactions without the constraint of geographical boundaries. The growth of interstate business-to-business and business-to-consumer transactions raises questions over where multi-state companies should be required to pay corporate income and other business activity taxes.

Over the past several years, a growing number of jurisdictions have sought to collect business activity taxes from businesses located in other states, even though those businesses receive no appreciable benefits from the taxing jurisdiction and even though the Supreme Court has ruled that the Constitution prohibits a state from imposing taxes on businesses that lack substantial connections to the state. This has led to unfairness and uncertainty, generated contentious, widespread litigation, and hindered business expansion, as businesses shy away from expanding their presence in other states for fear of exposure to unfair tax burdens.

In order for businesses to continue to become more efficient and expand the scope of their goods and services, it is imperative that clear and easily navigable rules be set forth regarding when an out-of-state business is obliged to pay business activity taxes to a state. Otherwise, the confusion surrounding these taxes will have a chilling effect on e-commerce, interstate commerce generally, and the entire economy as tax burdens, compliance costs, litigation, and uncertainty escalate.

Previous actions by the Supreme Court and Congress have laid the groundwork for a clear, concise and modern "bright line" rule in this area. In the landmark case of *Quill Corp. v. North Dakota*, the Supreme Court declared that a state cannot impose a tax on an out-of-state business unless that business has a "substantial nexus" with the taxing state. However, the Court did not define what constituted a "substantial nexus" for purposes of imposing business activity taxes.

In addition, over forty years ago, Congress passed legislation to prohibit jurisdictions from taxing the income of out-of-state corporations whose in-state presence was nominal. Public Law 86-272 set clear, uniform standards for when states could and could not impose such taxes on out-of-state businesses when the businesses' activities involved the solicitation

of orders for sales. However, like the economy of its time, the scope of Public Law 86-272 was limited to tangible personal property. Our Nation's economy has changed dramatically over the past forty years, and this outdated statute needs to be modernized.

That is why we are introducing this important legislation today. The Business Activity Tax Simplification Act both modernizes and provides clarity in an outdated and ambiguous tax environment. First, the legislation updates the protections in PL 86-272. Our legislation reflects the changing nature of our economy by expanding the scope of the protections in PL 86-272 from just tangible personal property to include intangible property and all types of services.

In addition, our legislation sets forth clear, specific standards to govern when businesses should be obliged to pay business activity taxes to a state. Specifically, the legislation establishes a "physical presence" test such that an out-of-state company must have a physical presence in a state before the state can impose franchise taxes, business license taxes, and other business activity taxes.

The clarity that the Business Activity Tax Simplification Act will bring will ensure fairness, minimize litigation, and create the kind of legally certain and stable business climate that encourages businesses to make investments, expand interstate commerce, grow the economy and create new jobs. At the same time, this legislation will ensure that states and localities are fairly compensated when they provide services to businesses with a physical presence in the state.

I urge each of my colleagues to support this very important bipartisan legislation.

SALUTING ANTHONY DEION
BRANCH

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING
OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, Mississippi's community and junior college system produces some of the top football players in the Nation. They are always targets of recruitment from universities around the country seeking to bolster their football programs. From time to time, we produce a truly great player who can compete at the highest level with the leadership and poise necessary to be the top player in the top game. Anthony Deion Branch from Jones County Junior College—in my home county—was named Super Bowl XXXIX Most Valuable Player. Today I'd like to salute that achievement and speak a little about his road to that success.

Deion's career began in Albany, Georgia where he excelled in track, football and enjoyed soccer in high school. After graduating he made the long drive to Ellisville, Mississippi where he competed and earned a spot on the Jones County Junior College football team. There he grabbed 37 passes for 639 yards and five touchdowns as a freshman on the Bobcat squad. The following year he took 69 receptions for 1,012 yards and nine touchdowns, earning second-team All-American honors and leading JCJC to a 12-0 mark and a victory at the Golden Isles Bowl to bring home the junior college national championship.

The University of Louisville recruited Deion who hauled in 143 passes for 2,204 yards and 18 touchdowns in his two years there. He became only the second player in school history to record multiple 1,000 yard seasons and is listed fourth and sixth respectively in the school records for career touchdown catches and receptions with the Cardinals—and that in just two years.

The New England Patriots used their Number 65 pick in the 2002 Draft to bring in Deion to what many are now describing as a dynasty—three Super Bowl Victories in four years, two with Deion on the team.

Deion's first Super Bowl ring came without the MVP award; his colleague and football legend Tom Brady won it that year. But while many of us fans thought he should be considered, we didn't have to wait long to be satisfied. The following year, despite an injury in his second game which kept him on the sidelines for the next seven matches, Deion finished the season with 35 receptions for 454 yards and four touchdowns.

Deion had trained and focused and coming into the end of the season from an injury, he was still ready for the premier football event in the world. Finishing the night with an NFL record-tying 11 receptions for 133 yards in the Super Bowl, he became just the fourth receiver in NFL history to receive the MVP award and is already being listed with greats like Jerry Rice and Dan Ross.

Mr. Speaker, Deion's team-first attitude and strong work ethic has paid off and we in Mississippi are proud of him and salute his continuing achievements. I know we will continue to see him excel in the future and all of us from Jones County, Mississippi will remember him for his years with us and salute his determination, skill and triumphs.

SERGEANT KEVIN BENDERMAN

HON. CYNTHIA MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I speak with you today about one of America's heroes, Sgt. Kevin Benderman. Sgt. Benderman is not a hero because he served a tour of duty in the Occupation of Iraq, though he did. He is not a hero because of the medals he was awarded, nor his ten years of honorable service in the U.S. Army.

No, Sgt. Kevin Benderman is a hero because when all around him are pressing forward to prosecute a violent war against the people of Iraq, Kevin Benderman had the courage to stand up and assert his heartfelt opposition to war.

Sgt. Benderman's opposition is not the theoretical if sincere opposition of a student peace activist. Kevin Benderman has seen things that none of God's children should have to endure. He was present when his superior ordered his unit to open fire on small children who were throwing rocks at the soldiers of his unit. He chased the hungry dogs from an open mass grave filled with the bodies of young children, old men and women. Kevin saw the burned child, crying in pain, while all around her ignored her injuries.

As he reflected on what he had experienced, he chose to not re-enlist, to not partici-

pate in a war and an institution that he could no longer square with his evolving yet sincerely held beliefs. But stretched by an immoral war, based on lies, beyond the limits of the resources afforded them, our military adopted a "stop loss order" policy to arbitrarily breach the contracts our nation made with those who serve in its military services.

So Kevin did what was necessary. He applied for Conscientious Objector status. His officers up the chain of command refused their duty to accept his application. His commander called him a coward. His unit chaplain refused to meet with him, writing by email that he was "ashamed" of Kevin. He was charged with "Desertion with Intent to Avoid Hazardous Duty" and "Missing Movement by Design". His preliminary hearings methodically violated every precept of substantive due process. He now faces a Court Martial on May 11 and the possibility of seven years in the stockade.

Every member of our Armed Forces raises their hands, as do we, and take an oath, as do we, to "defend the Constitution of the United States". That Constitution protects the "Right of Conscience", including the right to conscientiously object to war as an instrument of public policy. But given the climate we face right now, asserting such a right takes real courage. And it is the exercise of that courage which makes Sgt. Benderman a hero in my book.

It is a crime and a shame that while we are so busy working to expand freedom to other nations, we can't slow down to protect our precious freedoms among ourselves.

[From the Savannah Morning News, March 28, 2005]

DEFENSE LAWYER, INVESTIGATOR SQUARE OFF
OVER BENDERMAN'S CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR APPLICATION

(By John Carrington)

Filings and e-mails show that a 'non-adversarial' hearing over Sgt. Kevin Benderman's conscientious objector status was anything but cordial.

Sgt. Kevin Benderman poses with his wife Monica following Article 32 proceedings, a military court process similar to a preliminary hearing. Benderman, who has applied for conscientious objector status, has been charged with desertion for not deploying to Iraq with his unit.

The defense lawyer and the investigating officer for Sgt. Kevin Benderman's conscientious objector application apparently attended different hearings last month.

Both sides maintain they kept their cool during the hearing, saying the other side lost theirs, according to written recommendations and rebuttals released to the Savannah Morning News.

One thing is clear: a hearing that was, according to Army regulations, supposed to be a "non-adversarial" proceeding was anything but that.

Capt. Victor Aqueche, the Fort Stewart-appointed investigating officer, wrote in a recommendation memo following the hearing that Benderman was "argumentative" at times, and his demeanor "untactful" at others.

In his rebuttal, Maj. S. Scot Sikes, Benderman's military lawyer, said Aqueche at times became "agitated, snide and hostile" toward Benderman.

Sikes argued that Aqueche's "incestuous appointment" as investigating officer set the tone for this type of ill-willed ping-pong.

"(Aqueche) is assigned to the same battalion command," and consequently "was placed in the position of making a critical

determination regarding a soldier assigned to one of his colleague captain's own units," Sikes wrote.

In an interview Monday, Sikes said, "That bothered me. You know they're buds."

Aqueche did not respond to requests for comment.

Sikes also said Monday he knew the command looked at the timing of Benderman's request—just before he was scheduled to deploy—with suspicion. "But it should have not been so hostilely received."

That goes against the "non-adversarial" tone and tenor the application review is supposed to have, he said.

Sikes asked for a new hearing, a request he says was denied. He now has until Friday to file another rebuttal to Aqueche's response to the defense's initial rebuttal.

In early February, Sikes and Aqueche squared off almost immediately over the hearing's timing. It was scheduled the day after an Article 32 hearing to determine whether Benderman would face a general court-martial on charges he deserted and missed the January movement of his troops as they deployed to Iraq.

Sikes wanted a delay of a "mere" week. "Sgt. Benderman is very concerned that he cannot be adequately prepared for a hearing," Sikes wrote in a Feb. 3 e-mail attached to the rebuttal. "Preparations for the Article 32 cannot be overstated; it's very important."

Aqueche shot down the request with the following e-mail: "Sgt. Benderman made a conscious decision to take 14 days of leave prior to his Article 32 . . . A delay as such could be considered 'insincerity' on the part of Sgt. Benderman."

The investigation officer also said, "There is no preparation needed on Sgt. Benderman's behalf in order to answer questions regarding this application."

Yet Aqueche, in his March 23 recommendation memo, wrote, "I firmly believe Sgt. Benderman was not prepared for the in-depth questions presented during the CO hearing."

Aqueche's memo also said that, during the hearing, Benderman would consult with Sikes and then either refuse to answer questions—and question their relevancy to the application—or offer "vague" or delayed answers.

Sikes pointed out that, as Benderman's lawyer for both the court-martial charges and the conscientious objector application, he had to keep the sergeant from saying anything that could create more legal problems in the criminal case.

"And Aqueche made that out to be a negative thing," Sikes said Monday. "Anything Benderman says can be used against him in the court-martial. That puts me in a precarious position. There are some things I just could not let him answer."

The court-martial is scheduled for May 12. Sikes likes Benderman's chances on the desertion charges.

"It seems kind of silly to say he deserted over a weekend," the lawyer said Monday. "He was right there at his house, only 2 to 3 miles from the post."

Despite Aqueche's characterization of Benderman's demeanor during the hearing—and the captain's recommendation to deny the sergeant's application—Sikes also thinks Benderman will have better luck higher up the chain of command.

WHAT'S NEXT

Maj. S. Scot Sikes, Benderman's military lawyer, asked for a new hearing, a request he says was denied. He now has until Friday to file another rebuttal to Capt. Victor Aqueche's response to the defense's initial rebuttal.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUNCH OF THE HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution with my colleagues Mr. EHLERS, Chairman BOEHLERT, Ranking Member GORDON, Mr. ROSCOE BARTLETT, Mr. McDERMOTT, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER recognizing the contributions to science resulting from the Hubble Space Telescope and congratulating all those who have helped make Hubble one of the most important astronomical instruments in history.

On April 25, 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope was launched into orbit. In the years since the launch, Hubble has sent back images that have expanded our understanding of the universe beyond anyone's expectation. For the last fifteen years, school children, scientists, and interested citizens around the world have eagerly welcomed new images from Hubble—images that have provided an exciting keyhole into the wonders of our universe.

Hubble's scientific contributions have amazed us all for fifteen years. Just this week, NASA and the European Space Agency released images taken by Hubble of the largest and sharpest images of the Eagle Nebula and the Whirlpool Galaxy. Last year Hubble detected oxygen and carbon in the atmosphere of a distant planet, the first time the elements have been found at a world outside our solar system. Hubble also contributed to the finding of new evidence about recently discovered "dark energy." Hubble measured properties of light from 16 exploding stars, or supernovas, to find that the dark energy that pervades the universe might be what Einstein originally called the "cosmological constant." This discovery supports the theory that instead of ripping apart, the cosmos will continue expanding very slowly for at least the next 30 billion years.

These are just recent discoveries. Hubble remains one of the most productive scientific instruments in history, and certainly NASA's most productive scientific mission, accounting for 35 percent of all its discoveries in the last 20 years. The Hubble has provided proof of black holes, insights into the birth and death of stars, spectacular views of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9's collision with Jupiter, the age of the universe, and evidence that the expansion of the universe is accelerating. In short, Hubble has become a symbol of scientific excellence.

In addition to its past and potentially future scientific discoveries, Hubble provides information used by approximately one million teachers per year across the U.S. Hubble has also opened up the wonders of space to our youth and to all our citizens. As we struggle to keep our students interested in the sciences, images from Hubble inspire our youth to continue to believe that they can become astronauts and astronomers. Hubble images have brought the wonders of space down to the level of the classroom.

Of course, Hubble could not have been the success it has been without the countless scientists, engineers, civil servants, contractors

and other individuals and organizations that built and launched Hubble and then utilized its images to great effect. They have all contributed to making Hubble the national treasure it is today. So this resolution is intended to honor them and their commitment to science and the benefits it brings to our country and our world.

The Hubble has provided inspiration worldwide to young and old, scientists and non-scientists alike. I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating the 15th anniversary of the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope and the knowledge we have gained about our universe from this important astronomical instrument.

RECOGNIZING JULIUS HARPER DAVIS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, recently, Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi dedicated Harper Davis Field to a man who coached there for 25 years, and who has built a lifetime legacy of service to sport and his fellow man across the state. Coach Harper Davis called the rededication of Millsaps' Alumni Field to him the "greatest honor of my life." And while leading the Millsaps Majors he built a record of 138–79–4 including an undefeated season in 1980, his life has much more to honor.

At age 17, Harper Davis left his Delta home in Clarksdale, Mississippi and enlisted in the U.S. Marines Air Corps as a pilot to serve his Nation in World War II. After the War was over, he was met at Texas Grand Prairie Air Station by Mississippi State University assistant coach Phil Dickens who had the Bulldogs' playbook in hand. Two days later they arrived in Starkville for two practices before his first game where Davis scored two touchdowns as MSU defeated Auburn 20–0. Two days of study and 2 days of practice were followed by 2 touchdowns. In addition, during those 2 days, Harper Davis met Camille, his future wife. He would go on to be named to the All-SEC team while at State where he also ran on the school's track team. He was co-captain of the football team, voted Best Athlete, President of the "M" Club and named "Mr. Mississippi State University." Additionally he was a member of the Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Omicron Delta Kappa, Blue Key and the Colonels Club.

He graduated from Mississippi State with a bachelor of science degree in business finance and mathematics in 1948, in 1962 earned a master's degree in education administration.

After leaving Mississippi State University, Harper Davis was a first-round draft choice of both the Chicago Bears of the National Football League and the Los Angeles Dons of the All-American League. Harper Davis played one year with the Dons before the league folded and then went on to play with the Bears as well as the Green Bay Packers. Many considered him the fastest man in the NFL.

Over the years, Harper Davis has coached the backfield at his alma mater as well as head coach at West Point High School, and

Columbus High School before arriving at Millsaps College. He has been inducted into the Mississippi State Sports Hall of Fame and the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame and was named Mississippi Sportsman of the Year in 1976. He has been honored nationally for his contributions to the sport of football and his work with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Harper Davis is a member of Christ United Methodist Church and with his now departed wife, the former Camille Hogan of Starkville, has 3 sons, Michael, Andrew and Patrick with 4 grandchildren, Morgan, Drew, Paul and Brad.

Mr. Speaker, Harper Davis has now been coaching football for over 50 years and he continues today at Jackson Academy, where 4 of my sons attend. His gentle firmness and wise lessons continue to build young men in Mississippi. I am glad to recognize him today and honor a lifetime of service.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 6) to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy;

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Chairman, today the House of Representatives approved the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (H.R. 6). I supported this bill because our nation needs to take positive steps towards ending our nation's dangerous dependence on foreign sources of energy. This bill helps by allowing America to better utilize sources of energy that we possess right here at home. Furthermore, by streamlining the regulations governing domestic and off-shore energy production and repealing current restrictions on the ability of people to invest in electricity, H.R. 6 increases our energy security and makes certain that our economy will continue to have access to the energy that is necessary for growth.

Unfortunately, despite its strengths, H.R. 6 also contains a number of provisions that I believe are unnecessary at best, and detrimental

to the American taxpayer at worst. This bill contains dozens of newly authorized programs, including programs to acquire scooters and Segways. Although I believe there is a role for the government in helping develop cleaner sources of energy, the country currently faces an oncoming fiscal tsunami. To that end, I believe that we need to exercise extreme caution with the money entrusted to us by the American people.

Additionally, while H.R. 6 undoubtedly contains vital provisions aimed at improving energy efficiency, conservation, and development of alternative fuel sources, I am concerned that many of the tax incentives used to achieve these purposes will lead to the government picking winners and losers in the marketplace. In light of high gas prices, I believe there are already numerous incentives for energy users to develop ways to conserve and use energy more efficiently. Furthermore, high energy prices can also be a powerful driver of innovation for alternative, renewable fuels. Any producer who can develop an alternative fuel that is as efficient, reliable, and at least as cost-effective as gasoline could make tremendous profits in the energy market, even without government encouragement.

I congratulate Chairman JOE BARTON on crafting a bill that makes our nation safer and less dependent on foreign energy. His leadership and commitment to passing this needed legislation should be commended. H.R. 6 will make energy in this country more affordable, increase our energy security, and help Americans use energy in ways that are increasingly environmentally friendly. It is my hope that when we go to conference with the Senate, our conferees will remember the importance of promoting competition and innovation, while protecting taxpayers.

REMEMBERING SAMUEL WEBB SCALES

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, last month, Starkville, Mississippi lost a native son and a

civic leader with the passing of Samuel Webb Scales. He served his family, our nation's military, and achieved greatness in the world of international business.

After graduating from Starkville High School, Sam Scales went on to further education at the University of the South, Mississippi State College and the Vanderbilt Law School. For the past twelve years he has served as the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, and was bestowed with the title of Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Emeritus two years ago, which has the equivalent military rank of Lieutenant General.

Sam Scales served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1941 until 1945 and attained the rank of Sergeant Major. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1948 to 1972 and retired at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During his military career, he served in various assignments including Troop Commander (Calvary); Aide de Camp to Commanding General (Armored Division); General Staff Officer, Joint General Staff (Thailand); General Staff Officer (Australian Army).

Sam Scales served as Vice President of the Harlington National Bank (Texas); Chairman of the Board of Starr Associates (Bangkok, Thailand); Liaison Officer of Phoenix Assurance (Sidney, Australia); Chairman of the Board of Service Y Comisiones S.A. de C.V. (Mexico City); Senior Vice President of Continental Insurance Company and Regional Vice President for Latin America (Panama) as well as fourteen other US corporations located throughout Latin America.

He was a member of the Association of the U.S. Army (AUSA), the Navy League and Sigma Chi Fraternity at Mississippi State University. He was a member of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Starkville.

Mr. Speaker, Starkville mourns the passing of Sam Scales. Our prayers go with his wife Bette, his children Hunter, Twila, Bette, Walton, John and Jennifer as well as his five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His accomplishments, like so many of his generation, can hardly be measured in words, but I am proud to have been able to take this opportunity to note his life's achievements and to remember this young boy from Starkville who grew to be a great man and leader around the world.